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BRADSHAW COLL

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

MY father was once a wealthy silk merchant in Dublin. In my girlish days my spirits were great and every prospect seemed doubly charming. I was often told that my father was the richest man in the city. My present affluence charmed me and my future prospects were an inexhaustible fund of pleasure to my aspiring mind. I was often told by my servant what a fine girl I would be, "and really Miss you are almost as big as myself." Thus was I poisoned, my mind being weak. Small might be the portion of flattery to induce me to take all those airs to which I thought my father's only daughter was entitled to. I had two brothers younger by many years than myself: my poor mother died with anxiety when she had buried four beautiful daughters: I was admired by my father, and flattery became familiar to my ear while it poisoned my heart. At my fourteenth year I was sent to a fashionable boarding school in London, as my father said that his Maria should not be educated in Ireland. I was dazzled with the variety of all I saw, and every thing I did, however ridiculous, was applauded. I was so presumptuous as to think, when I heard of many great houses in Dublin failing, that it was impossible for my father to be reduced to that situation.

Delighted and seemingly delighting others, I one morning observed a change amongst my companions: they seemed as if they caught the disease one from another: they were cool and every foolish thing I said and did was no longer laughed at. I went to my governess, she had the newspaper in her hand and informed me of my father's house stopping payment. This downfall was so unexpected it almost broke my heart. I received a letter next morning, all my gay expectations were blasted, my father had lost a great deal, and his debts were great; I went home; the disappointment plunged me into a fever. I recovered my health along with a deep repentance for my folly and pride, and I shuddered to think I had ever the presumption to suppose I was out of the reach of misfortune. This event has humbled me, and I trust it is one of the greatest favours that the All-merciful has bestowed on one of the most ignorant of his creatures.

M. S.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE following description of a *lusus naturæ*, which, as far as I have heard, is of a very uncommon nature, will not, perhaps, be unacceptable to some of your readers.

A gentleman of the county of Down, some time since, being at breakfast in a farm-house, a goose-egg of very large size was laid on the table; on his remarking it, he was told that it had been laid by a goose which frequently laid eggs with a double yolk. On opening it with this expectation, he was surprised with a phenomenon still more singular. Within the white of the egg, which was very thin at the end that was broken, was a second perfect egg, covered with a shell in every respect resembling the outer one, so that it has every appearance of a small egg artificially introduced into a larger. The inner egg remains unbroken; and I am informed that it has been preserved, and sent to a gentleman in Dublin, who is engaged in making a collection of natural and artificial curiosities.

I should be glad to know whether a

similar phenomenon has occurred to any other of your Correspondents. I am,

Sir, Yours, T. P.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I AM a plain man, a farmer in the country, and am blessed with a notable wife and six fine children, all healthy and well-looking. They had always the example of seeing me and my wife behave in the same manner one day as another, minding our business so as to provide for them, and never wasting time either in reading, writing, or the like.——First, I make bold to tell you of my eldest daughter taking it in her head she would make songs or verses, which pleased us all mightily at first; indeed no one was more touched with her pretty little jingle than myself, never thinking it would come to any harm. At first she made verses only now and then, when any thing particular came across me, or the neighbours; but soon she could never stop writing, nor would she do any thing that would turn to any account, which made me think it was time to stop praising her writing; and besides, I must own, I was not touched as I used to be, partly owing to the wearisome length of her verses, and partly owing to my being so vexed at her doing nothing else. I am sorry to say that my wife continued to praise her, and was quite proud of her abilities, as she called them; but I was much prouder of my second daughter, who never ceased working, either at her needle, or about the house, for which I constantly praised her: but I find that praise is as bad for the one as the other. Betty, my second daughter, gets up at four in the morning, to disturb all the family, and to tire herself before bed-time, and if not praised for it, she is so sulky, I had rather see her idle. Now, I write this, to consult about my third daughter, who seems to have some taste for reading, whether I had better not let her ever open a book; or, would you advise me to let her read a little, and work a little? and if I find she does more of one than the other, I will, with your advice, check her for it. As to my three boys, I will consult you about them when I have more time; at present I am very busy, having manure to spread, and my children to scold.

S.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOUR correspondent, T. in your last number, appears angry at me for my remarks on the character of Sterne. It is to be regretted, that writers, when they differ, do not refrain from indulging in the spirit of controversy. He accuses me, and another writer in your Magazine, under the title of "*a Lover of simplicity of character*," of violating candour, and writing from prejudice against Sterne. I might also accuse him of prejudice in favour of Sterne, and of entertaining a resolution not to have the bandage, put on in the days of his youth, removed from his eyes, that he might see the deformity in those writings; and if I were inclined to retort, I might charge him with betraying the cause of decency in the support of his favourite author. But I will not allow myself to suspect the purity of his intentions. I have no inclination to prolong the controversy respecting Sterne, but am willing to let the cause go to the tribunal of the public, for their verdict on the evidence already adduced; but in my reply, at the closing of the case, I may be allowed to avail myself of the admission of the opposite counsellor, who, like an honest advocate employed in a bad cause, grants all I want, in the following candid concession: "Not that I mean to say, that it is an unexceptionable production, or that there are not many passages in his books, or rather in this one (Tristram Shandy, and his Sentimental Journey) which would have been better omitted. His wit often led him to use expressions, *that excite the imagination of his readers in a way not favourable to the government of the passions*." Here I rest my cause, with the further remarks, that the passions are sufficiently inflammable, and require not the spark of licentious wit to set fire to the train: that this disguised system of sensuality is at least as dangerous to youth as more open obscenity, which disgusts by its

grossness: and that it is not a fastidious delicacy, but a proper respect for decency and propriety, that, to use the simile adduced at the conclusion of T's letter, would prevent the unnecessary exposure of "a beautiful infant sprawling naked on the floor," before a mixed assemblage of youth of both sexes. There would certainly be a want of decency and delicacy in the practice, and an author may bring forward the best principles of our nature, without any mixture of that indelicacy which must detract from the value of the other parts of his writings, and is a legitimate object for criticism and censure. A good way to judge of the delicacy of wit is, to examine if it is fit to be read in a mixed company of both sexes. I cannot allow that goodness of intention excuses writing in such a manner, as to injure the modesty of youth, which is a most excellent preservative against the allurements of vice. If this fence is broken in upon, by whatever means, or by wit however subtle, the security of the youthful mind within the inclosure of virtue is lessened.

In estimating the character of Sterne, and other deceased authors, it is well to doubt of the unqualified admission of the old maxim "*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*—say nothing but good of the dead." The Edinburgh Reviewers have lately amended this sentence with evident improvement—"Benefaction to the living, rather than superstition towards the dead."

I am accused of *un*-Irish gallantry, because I do not praise Irish female writers, whether I think them deserving of it or not. I endeavour to guard against nationality, and am desirous neither to give praise to any characters because they are Irish, nor to withhold it from those who justly merit it, whether they are born in this island or in any other part of the world. Nationality, or a blind attachment to country, often leads us to commit the double injustice of despising others, and awarding more than the due meed of praise to our own.

A READER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

IN your last number I was astonished to find that T. in his "Observations on the remarks on Sterne," accuses the "Lover of Simplicity of Character" of want of candour; I am not conscious that I was uncandid, but I think that the cause of morality requires that Sterne's writings should be censured, and that Tristram Shandy and the Sentimental Journey should be banished from all well selected libraries. The anecdotes related by the "Reader" and first published in the "Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature," were never contradicted by any writer in that publication, which I consider a proof of their authenticity and of the good sense of the English; but I am sorry to say that the Irish taste is not quite so correct: any person who dares to say that Sterne's writings are immoral is contradicted with the greatest bitterness.

I cannot agree with T. in thinking that the "Reader" is unpolite to the Irish ladies, although I am as much attached to the Irish character as T. can possibly be. The "Reader" expresses his high respect for the female sex, and points out some excellent moral writings by English ladies, whose works will be read when Sterne will be forgotten, and sunk into merited oblivion.

It is a true friend who points out errors, and endeavours to correct our taste.

The charge against Sterne's writings is for immorality and indelicacy; I am not such a wild enthusiast as to expect to make converts to my opinion. We have a right to avow our sentiments, and although T. defends Sterne and almost loses his temper to think that his Idol is attacked, yet he has the candour to admit the charge of indelicacy. After his candid concession I am unwilling to carry this controversy farther, and must take my leave of T. by thanking him for the high compliments he pays the female sex, and hoping when he next appears in your pages he will amicably allow others to differ in opinion.

A Lover of Simplicity of character.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

"TO catch the manners living as they rise," is the office of a

Journalist, and thus to exhibit, as in a moving picture, the follies of the day, sketched with a lighter pen, while the vices of the age are pourtrayed in stronger colours, and their virtues held forth to view, as well to deter, as to excite by example.

I was lately amused with reading the following account of a trial in England, which took place in last term, in which the hero of the tale, smitten with the love of heraldic fame, is made to figure away without appearing entitled to become an honourable ancestor to future lovers of the pomp of heraldry.

It affords some information to the uninitiated, to find the cost of tracing and engrossing descents, and for how much a man may have himself decorated with all the honours of the parchment tree.

If we may be allowed to continue the metaphor, such ornaments are like the paltry imitations of flowers, artificially made of paper, which, however showy, do not shed that rich perfume with which virtue adorns the brows of those who are usefully and virtuously employed, whether they are descended from kings, or more humble progenitors. It is individually acquired character, not the fame of ancestors, which stamps a value, and in every situation,

" Worth makes the man—the want of it
" the fellow."

N.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, LONDON, JUNE 21.

Townshend and Martin, v. Pendock Barry Neale, esq.

The Attorney General stated, that the Plaintiffs were the Windsor Herald and Blue Mantle Pursuivant at Arms, who brought their action to recover 281*l.* for business done for the defendant, who was a gentleman of large fortune in the county of Nottingham. He was a country squire, with all the hospitality, and more than the ordinary share of vanity belonging to that class of the gentry of England. In September 1804, he came to the College of Heralds, where Mr. T. and Mr. M. were in attendance for the day, and requested to have his pedigree drawn out, with the arms of all his ancestors, emblazoned in a splendid manner, and gave his instructions, from which it appeared that he was descended from the Royal blood. After tracing his ancestors for some time, it was found that the blood of the Neales, the Pendocks, and the Barrys flowed from the antient kings of Normandy, of Saxony, of Ireland and of Scotland, besides being also descended from Fluke, king of Jerusalem, and from Cadwallader the Great, of Wales. The defendant was shown a large pedigree upon one skin of vellum, but as there were more than would fill a skin of his ancestors, he said he would have two or more.—Whenever any connexion could be traced with blood royal, he was anxious to have the whole lineage inserted in his pedigree. The plaintiffs were employed a considerable time in drawing out this pedigree, or family tree, and at various times supplied him with a number of sketches of arms, for paintings for his windows, which were to be executed by Messrs. Parker. While this was going on, the defendant was very anxious to see the plaintiffs at his home, and sent for them down to Allerton Hall, in Nottinghamshire, where he feasted them with venison, claret, and champaigne, for a fortnight, and then sent them back to their official duties:

" Implentur veteris bacchi, pinguisque
" ferinæ."

Not satisfied, however, with mere good cheer for their labour, they ventured to ask for money, and the defendant requested to know what they had done, and demanded their bill. They had as yet only made a rough draught of the pedigree, and supplied drawings for the windows, and in part proceeded upon the drawings on vellum for the coats of arms. Their bill amounted to upwards of 280*l.*—Some of the items were as follow:

To tracing 260 descents, at 5*s.* each	59	0	0
Tracing out and sketching 426 Coats of Arms, at 5*s.* each	106	10	0
Sketches of 81 Coats of Arms for the Hall, at 5*s* each, and 21 Crowns and Coronets, at 1*s.* each, &c.	45	0	0
Painting of the Arms of the Defendant on vellum	10	10	0

Expenses going to and returning from the Defendant's seat in Nottinghamshire, at 2*s.* 6*d.* per mile 31 10 0

Upon this the defendant requested that the draft might be sent to him; but as the plaintiffs had no other guide to go by, they refused to give it up to him, but permitted his attorney to have it, who unluckily lent it to him, and he never returned it, but pretended that the waiter at the hotel had lighted the fire with it. He, however, wrote the plaintiffs a letter, stating, that he had applied their nonsense to the only use for which it was fit, and made a nasty allusion to some monkish lines, which we cannot repeat. The fit of Heraldic vanity was over with him then, and he began to perceive that what he was ordering was all nonsense. He had employed the plantiffs to fit him with a fool's cap, but he must pay for it; and the maker of the fool's cap, said the Attorney General, must not be fooled out of his money expended in the decoration. If it was his folly, he was a rich man, and might say,

"Meæ sultitiam patiuntur opes."

"I am rich enough to be a fool."

He must not afterwards be allowed to cheat the plaintiffs of their money, and the just rewards of their labour, because he had changed his mind. At first he thought blood was every thing; now he chooses to think virtue every thing, and says, *stemmata quid faciunt*—let every man be his own ancestor—pedigrees are good for nothing, unless they happen to be drawn upon *soft* paper.

Mr. Murray and Mr. Hawker, from the Herald's Office, were called, who proved the plaintiff's case, and upon being cross-examined by Mr. Garrow, whether they could not give any man a pedigree up to the Norman kings, and whether they did not deal in fiction, stated that the records in the college were very accurate down to 1690, when the visitation by the College of Arms ceased, and that they always required strict evidence to show a descent from persons whose pedigrees are recorded there.

Mr. Garrow, in reply, endeavoured to beat down the amount of the plaintiff's demand, and told some humourous stories, amongst which was that of an Alderman, who, applying to the College of Arms for his pedigree, was told by the Porter, that there was nobody in the way but the Red (*Rouge*) Dragon, who was asleep by the office fire, but he would go and wake him; when the poor Alderman ran away in a fright, saying, he'd be damned if he staid to be swallowed up by a fiery Dragon. As for the heralds, and Mr. Windsor Herald in particular, he did not mean to undervalue them, he respected them no less than a learned Judge, the late Mr. Justice Gould, who seeing one of them in Westminster-hall with his *tabord* on, all bedizened with embroidery, stumbled up against him, and begging his pardon, said, he hoped he had not offended him, but really he had taken him for a gilt arm chair, and was just going to sit down upon him. After some observations upon the charge of 2*s.* 6*d.* a mile, for going down in the shooting season, to eat venison and drink wine, he left it as a mere question of the quantum of damages.

Lord Ellenborough summed up the evidence, and the Jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages 208*l.* 11*s.* allowing twenty guineas only for the journey.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SKETCH OF A RAMBLE TO ANTRIM.

(Concluded from page 425 of last volume)

AS I have not, like a late tourist, given our bill of fare at each stage, I shall still observe the same silence with regard to our repast at Antrim, not that I think we fared worse, but because I suppose such stuff only serves to tire the reader, and certainly adds nothing to his general information; besides, few people care much how others fare, when they are not partakers themselves. Having completely refreshed ourselves, and signified our intention of departing, our kind landlady, with her husband, proposed to accompany us to see Lough Neagh; we gladly accepted the offer, and soon set out thither. Near it they pointed to several places, and informed us they were the graves of the unfortu-

nate people who fell in the action of the 7th of June, 1798; the sight moved me, as several of them had been my acquaintances, and recalled to my memory those lines of Blair:

"What is this world?
"What? but a spacious burial-place
"unwall'd,
"Strew'd with death's spoils."

The walk along the strand of this lough is very pleasant, but the land close to it is poor, being overflowed by its water during winter. It is said, this could be remedied, by removing the eel-wires at Toome. If this is true, it is certainly a great pity to have so much land damaged, for the paltry consideration of catching eels. This lough has been so often and amply described in numerous works, and its petrifying quality so generally known, that I shall not attempt any description, but proceed to other matter. After walking some time along its margin, we crossed the fields to Greenmount, the elegant seat of ——— Thompson, esq. about one mile from Antrim, near the road leading to Muckamore. This beautiful villa stands on a rising ground, and is completely finished in the modern taste; the demesne is planted with a great number of trees and shrubs, and laid out into some very pleasing walks. At the rere of the building are two small lakes, well stored with fish; on them are also some swans. On the verge of one of the fore mentioned lakes, in a shrubbery, is a hermitage built with romantic simplicity, and opposite is a small island, joined to the main land by an artificial ruined arch. My companion seemed charmed with the scenery of the place, and on our going away, he repeated with rapture these lines of the poet:

"Would you relish a rural retreat,
"Or the pleasure the groves can inspire,
"The city's allurements forget,
"To this spot of enchantments retire."

Indeed, I believe very few places in this county surpass in beauty the charming villa of Greenmount. We now took leave of our kind conductors, and taking the road leading to Templepatrick, proceeded on our way home. The country about Muckamore exhibited some excellent specimens of cultivation. The crops were truly luxuriant, and seemed to promise an abundant harvest, as all looked exceedingly well. Here are large flour mills, also a linen bleach green. Near the road are several gentlemen's seats; those of Mr. Swan and Mr. Thompson of Muckamore, are most conspicuous.

After travelling about two miles through a fine country, adorned with neat farm-houses, and exhibiting the same promising appearance as elsewhere, we reached Dunadry, a little hamlet, about three miles from Antrim; it has nothing deserving of notice except a large paper-mill, which gives employment to its inhabitants. We here crossed the six-mile-water, by a bridge, and as this river has been several times mentioned in this ramble, I shall add a short description: it rises out of Ballyboley mountain, and taking a westerly course, passes through ballyclare, and by Templepatrick, collecting numerous streams in its course thither; it is here very deep, and mostly has a dead appearance; continuing its serpentine course, it falls into Loughneagh, as formerly mentioned. It is well stored with fish, as Dologhan, Bodach, Trout, and Eel; at Antrim are also Perch. It is certainly wrong named in being called the Six-mile water, as it runs a course, taking in its numerous windings, of not less than sixteen miles.

Proceeding forward, the country still maintains the same fertile appearance, while the scene was much enlivened as we approached Templepatrick, by the demesne and planting of Lord Templeton, the lofty turrets of whose castle we often saw amongst the trees. We now came to Templepatrick; this is a poor looking village, consisting of about thirty straggling dwelling houses; previous to 1798, it had a much better appearance, but a great part of it being burned by the army during the rebellion, many of the houses have never been rebuilt. Here is a handsome Presbyterian meeting house, and near it is Castle Upton, the seat of Lord Templeton; his Lordship is an absentee, and very seldom resides here, the castle being occupied by his agent. Near this is a good deal of planting, as Firs, Ash, &c. The necessity for raising timber in this

country must be plain to every observer, from the dearth of that article, and no where is the soil better adapted for raising that scarce and valuable timber *Oak*, for which this country was formerly so famous. The sun getting low, we halted but a short time, and continued our route to Ballyclare, a distance of four miles. The fields of potatoes near the road were numerous, and generally looked well; I remarked to my companion that they would be cheap this year, but he said, the farmers had these several years got a high price for them, and were now so much given to speculation, that he believed, rather than sell them at a low price, they would take Sir John Sinclaire's method of drying them on a kiln, which he says will preserve them for years*. On arriving at Ballyclare I was again affected,

"The lonely spot to view,
"By artless friendship blest, when life
"was new!"

We, however, made no delay here, but passed on to Ballynure, a space of about two miles. This is a neat village, consisting of about fifty dwelling-houses; the houses are much better than in most villages of the same size. Here are a church, and a dissenting meeting house. A great quantity of linen cloth is made in this village and neighbourhood; some cotton is also wrought, of the muslin and calico branches. Fairs are held here in May, September, and October. Having taken some refreshment here, we proceeded on to Straid; the coup d'oeil on approaching this hamlet, was very striking: the evening being calm, the smoke from its cabins ascended far above the lofty old trees by which it is inclosed; in short, the whole appearance when entered on either side, leads the traveller to expect the "loveliest village of the plain;" but no where will expectation be more disappointed; it consists of only sixteen miserable cabins, which mostly seem ready to tumble on the inhabitants. The parsonage house is near this place.

The sun set as we left this place, and my fellow-traveller parted from me to go home.

"Now came still evening on, and twi-
"light grey
"Had in her sable livery all things
"clad."

And as nothing could exceed the beauty and serenity of the evening, being very tired, I walked slow, thinking occasionally on a remark I had read somewhere, that a person who travels through Europe on foot, forms a very different idea of things, from him who is whirled through it in a post chaise; and really I think with the author, that very different would be his ideas, indeed. Before I reached home there came on a drizzling rain; if at home I would have been glad of it, as the ground was very dry, but I now regretted it much; so very different do we view the same thing in various scenes of life. However, I made the best speed possible, comforting myself with the words of a great man, "What cannot be repaired, is not to be regretted."

S. M. S.

† Vide his Address to the Board of Agriculture.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DISSERTATION ON AN ANTIENT MARBLE STATUE REPRESENTING A BAGPIPE PLAYER; IN THE MUSEUM OF SIGNOR MARCHESE D. MARFILLO VENUTI. TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN OF SIGNOR CANONICO ORAZIO MACCARI DE CORTONA.

THE monument about to be treated of is an antient statue of white marble about two thirds of a cubit in height including the base, which is a kind of irregular pentagon. It represents a shepherd of juvenile age, standing, with a Phrygian cap on his head, clothed in two tunics, the one of which goes as far as his loins, the other to the middle of the thigh. His feet are naked, but his legs are covered with rough shepherd's boots. The left leg appears crossed over the right. He holds in his left hand a bagpipe, called in Italian *Fagotto o piva*, and in French *Cornemuse*. The bag appears to be much swelled out, and to its lower part is attached a pipe with three holes, to which the shepherd applies his right hand, to regulate the sound issuing through it from the compression of the bag. The two pipes for inflating it are wanting in this statue, having been broken as it

seems, by some of those accidents to which, through the injuries of the elements, or the barbarism or negligence of men, most of the venerable monuments of antiquity have been exposed.

To proceed with regularity, I shall divide this essay into three Sections. In the first I shall treat of the relation which the bagpipe of this statue bears to a similar instrument which may be seen in other monuments, or described by authors. In the second, I shall explain the use of the bagpipes, and by whom, and on what occasions they were played. In the third I shall return to the subject which gave rise to this inquiry, and propose some conjectures as to the person who may be supposed to be represented here.

I. Of the Bagpipes which are to be found in a few other monuments of antiquity, and whether these Bagpipes be the same as the Pythaules of the Antients.

There are but few antient monuments in which players on the bagpipes *(Utricularii)* are represented. A Shepherd in every respect similar to that now described may be seen in the Alban Museum sounding the Bagpipes, differing from this in nothing but that there are two pipes attached to the bottom of the bag. A Bacchant in the art of dancing with a Thyrsus in her right hand appears cut in corneil wood near the Ficoroni, and holding in her left a kind of bagpipe of which we shall presently speak. M. Bianchini in his posthumous dissertation on the triple organic music of the Antients, mentions a similar musical instrument, taken from an antient bass-relief preserved at Rome, in the palace of the prince of Santa Croce. To these may be added as a fourth our statue, there being, as far as I know, no other recorded by the writers on Greek or Roman antiquities.

The abovementioned bagpipes differ from one another in some of their parts. For in one alone is the pipe for inflating the Instrument, which the Bacchant of Ficoroni holds, and it is of a different figure from those through which the sound is produced. These sounding pipes are two, according to the figure described by Bianchini, very long, and in each of them are lateral holes, whence their use cannot be mistaken. Both of them moreover, as they proceed from the bag, are broader towards the extremity like a trumpet, whence it appears that in this figure a new species of pipe is represented, consisting of a bag with two musical pipes, whose tones were probably different, like the various tubes of the organ, so that the player might touch now the one and again the other, or both together with both hands.

If we credit the author of the Epistle to Dardanus attributed to S. Girolamo, there were but two pipes, and these of brass, annexed to the bagpipes. "Antiquis temporibus fuit chorus quoque simplex, pellis cum duabus cicutis æreis, et per primam inspiratur, secunda vocem emittit." "Antiently the chorus was simple, a bag with two brazen pipes, through one of which the air was introduced, and the other sent forth the sound." But he speaks of the chorus, and of simple pipes, and of the more antient times bordering on those in which they were made of shin bones, whence they obtained their name (Tibia).

As to the number of holes in the pipes, though they appear equal in ours with that of Bianchini, yet nothing can be determined from thence; antient sculptors were not very exact in such particulars, they as well as these of our own time, taking too great advantage of the well known licence granted by Horace to such sort of people. It will be better to proceed to examine another question more difficult of investigation, the decision of which I am induced to believe will do much honour to the pipers of the present day and console them for the little estimation in which their profession is now held.

In the writers of antiquity certain musicians are to be met with, distinguished by the name of Pythaules, whom some of our modern literati imagine to be different from our pipers, while others think them the same. Previously to proceeding to this, it may be proper to give the etymology of the greek word ασκαυλης by which bagpipes are designated, as it may throw some light on that of the word

Pythaules. Ασκος and Αυλος are two words signifying a bag and a pipe, they therefore designate a fife united with a bag, or attached to a bag. The Latins also have employed this term, and among others Martial, whose words I shall have occasion to quote hereafter. To return to Pythaules, the etymologies given to this word by the learned are various, as may be seen at large in the Dictionary of Pitiscus. This author rejects the opinion of Scaliger (who, by confounding the bag *uter* with *dolium* makes the Pythaules in every respect similar to our *Ascaules* or Bagpiper) and supposes that this kind of musicians employed vessels of baked earth, forcing the air into it through pipes in the same manner as the pipers use the bag. But none of the antients have taken notice of such performers on *jars* or *pitchers*. To this may be added, that such an instrument could have been of very little use from the difficulty of removing it from one place to another.

This objection induced Bartolinus and Balengerus to suppose that the musicians of whom we are speaking made use of a wooden barrel, called *Cadus*, into which, as into the bag, the air was sent through one or two tubes or pipes. And in fact, if the following lines of Propertius be carefully noticed, their opinion will not seem improbable. This poet, in celebrating the Asiatic victory gained by Augustus, writes thus:

Spargite me lymphis, carmenque recentibus aris,
Tibia mygdoniis libet eburna *Cadis*.

ELEG. IV. 6.

From these it appears that Propertius makes mention of an instrument very similar to that described by the above-mentioned authors.

I would indeed be willingly induced to change the word *cadis* for that of *modis*, were I supported by the authority of any ancient manuscript; but I dare not venture on it. Wherefore to give some appearance of justice to the good sense of the poet, setting aside the barrels of Bartolinus, I find no difficulty in supposing that Propertius may have made use of the more general term of *cadus* in place of *uter*, according to the expression of Virgil:

Vina bonus quæ deinde *cadis* onerarat Acestes.

It is true that Pliny and other authors understand by *cadus* a vessel of wood; but it was also a general name for vessels to hold liquors, and therefore Propertius might have employed it in place of *uter* in the same manner as the πιθος of the Greeks is a word applicable to all the three *uter*, *dolium* and *cadus*; whence Vossius, Ducangius and Bianchini have reason to suppose that the Pithaules of the ancients were the same as our bagpipers. And in fact, if the difference between the discordant opinions of the above-cited authors be well observed, it will be easy to reconcile them to one another. For though it is not impossible that the ancient players on such wind instruments may have sometimes made use of barrels of wood or ivory, or such other substance, into which the wind might be introduced through pipes; yet it is on the other hand incontestible, that one species of these barrels was of skin in which wine was kept, as Ulpian among others proves, "Vino legato utris non debebuntur, nec culleos deberi dico." Whence, from the similarity of the size and use the word *cadus* may have been used for *utris*.

It is needless to mention Bartolinus' remark on this verse of Propertius, the purpose of which is that the word *cadis* may refer to some city of Phrygia or India mentioned by Strabo, Hierocles, Ptolemy or Pliny. This much is certain that *cadis* taken for a city, conveys no signification; it would require an Œdipus to tell what was meant by, "libet carmen eburna tibia mygdoniis cadis."

I shall end this section by declaring my acquiescence to the opinion of Vossius and Ducangius.

II. Of the use of the bagpipes among the ancients, and the occasion on which they were employed.

Having proved the similarity, or to speak more correctly, the identity of the above-mentioned musicians, it will not be useless to make some observations on the use which the ancients made of the bagpipes. Were we to form a judgment from our own times, it would be thought a very contemptible instrument, being now an amusement solely of coarse shepherds and unpolished country-men. In the kingdom of Naples and in some parts of Sicily, it is still much used, and particularly a-

mong the natives of Calabria, who carry them to Rome, and afterwards go through other towns, playing them through the public streets and ways for the amusement of the lower classes, thus supporting themselves for several months on the wretched profits of this instrument. But this was not the case among the ancients; bagpipes were then in great esteem, and admitted to play at the public games and in the theatre. Suetonius in the life of Nero writes, that this mad emperor made a vow, that if he recovered from a dangerous fit of sickness, he would have the bagpipes played in the public games. "Sub exitu quidem vitæ palam voverat, si sibi incolumis status permansisset proditurum se part victoriæ ludis, Hydraulam, Choraulam et *utricularium*." If the word *utricularii* be the same with the Pythaules, we can from Seneca show that they had a place in the public theatre of Naples: "Et hic, *id est*, in theatro, ingenti studio quis sit Pythaules bonus judicatur." The emperor Carinus had an hundred musicians of this kind, together with his buffoons, parasites and actors, and it is very probable that they played on the stage, as this emperor was very much addicted to scenic representations. Flavius Vopiscus writes thus in his life, "Et item centum Psalpistas uno crepitu concinentes, et centum camptaulas, etiam Pythaulas centum pantomimos et Gymnicos mille. Pegma præterea cujus flammis scena conflagravit." Turnebus thinks that the word *camptaulas* should be written *ascaulas*. Salmasius, perhaps with better reason, substitutes *cerataulas*, which reading he founds on the authority of a manuscript, which he considers as very ancient.

In the Pythian games also, the bagpipers (*Pythaules*) had a place. Horace, in the Art of Poetry, and Hyginus, in his two hundred and fifty third fable, bear testimony to it; this last speaking of similar performers on pipes, says, "Pythaules, qui Pythia cantaverat, septem habuit pallatos, unde postea appellatus est choraules." From these words of Hyginus it appears that the choraules were the same as the pythaules, though Vossius supposes them to have been separate and distinct. However that may be, it is certain that our bagpipers had a chorus of seven persons, dressed in a *pallium*, or cloak, who sung when the bagpipes played. The custom of singing in this dress is traced from some ancient monuments, and among others, from a very fine antique gem, of the museum of Signor Medina di Livorno, in which may be seen a Cupid sitting playing on the lyre, and another standing, who plays on the unequal pipes, while between them is a youth, in a short tunic, over which is a *pallium*, who sings.

I shall finally observe, that in the above-cited passage of Hyginus, the words "qui Pythia cantaverat," have been introduced from the margin into the text, as the learned Munkerus shrewdly conjectures. Some grammarian, reading Pythaules in the text, for want of better information, supposed it to be one *who sung at the Pythian games*, and wrote this erroneous explanation in the margin, which words were afterwards inserted in the text by the person who restored the manuscript, as if they had been the words of Hyginus. Pythaules here has no connection whatever with the Pythian games, but comes from the words πῦθος and αὐλος *a bag* and *a pipe*.

Besides these authors we may again refer to the above-mentioned epistle attributed to S. Girolamo, in which the chorus of bagpipers are noticed as being employed in the ancient synagogues: "Synagogæ antiquis temporibus fuit chorus quoque simplex, pellis cum duabus cicutis æreis, et per primum inspiratur, secunda vocem emittit."

Salmasius in his notes to Flavius Vopiscus thinks that the word *chorus* in this place ought to be changed to *dorus;* because δορος can sometimes in the Greek language, signify a skin, or hide. But who does not see that the repetition of this word is useless, if the substance of the bags is called in one place *dorus*, and in another part of the same sentence *pellis?* Hence it may be plainly seen that our bagpipers had their choirs of singers, and the passage of Hyginus is too strong to be doubted. Moreover, in all the manuscripts belonging to the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, which contain the works of S. Girolamo, two of which I have seen in the imperial Laurentian library, the words are always *chorus*, and not *dorus*.

The bagpipes have undergone various changes of esteem and neglect.

There was a time in which it was not less esteemed than the simple pipe. But in the reign of the emperor Sergius Galba, it was much degraded from its former rank, for Martial observes, that one *Canus*, a celebrated flute player, would have been ashamed to become a bagpiper.

———Credis hoc, Prisce,
Vocem ut loquatur Psittacus cothurnices,
Et concupiscat esse Canus Ascaules.

In progress of time this instrument fell gradually into disrepute, so that it was only used among the shepherds and persons of low extraction. Mantovanus in one of his Eclogues, thus elegantly describes Tonius the shepherd playing on the bagpipes.

Et cum multifori Tonius cui tibia buxo,
Tandem post epulas et pocula, multicolorem
Ventriculum sumpsit, buccasque inflare recentes
Incipiens, oculos aperit, ciliisque levatis,
Multotiesque alto flatum e pulmonibus haustum
Utrem implet, cubito vocem dat tibia presso
Nunc hic, hunc illuc, digito saliente.

These two last verses remind me of certain others of Virgil, in his *Copa*, or of whoever was the author of that little poem. What I have already said, will throw light on a verse hitherto badly interpreted by the learned.

Cossa Syrisca caput graia redimita mitella,
Crispum sub crotalo docta movere latus;
Ebria formosa saltat lasciva taberna,
Ad cubitum raucos excutiens calamos.

I know that some authors think with Salmasius, that the poet in the last line speaks of the *crotalus*, but besides that the *crotalus* is mentioned in the verse above, it appears that in this last he speaks of a different instrument, as the words "*ad cubitum raucos excutiens calamos*" are inapplicable to the *crotalus*, which instrument, according to Suidas and the same Salmasius, consisted of a reed fixed, and so contrived that when struck with the hand, it produced a loud sound. It therefore must have been struck with the hands and not with the elbow; as is done with the bagpipe, in which the arm forces out the air, while the hands direct and modulate the sound which issues from the holes of the pipe.

In order to terminate this second paragraph it will not be improper to take notice of a college of *Utricularii*, which Pitiscus confounds with an imaginary society of our bagpipers. The custom which the ancients had, of making boats or skiffs of leather, for the passing of rivers, is well known. Christian Schwart has composed an elegant dissertation on the *utricularii* of the ancients. "They were accustomed," says he, "to unite two hides together, on which a man mounted, and if they were not able to support him, other hides were added, as Florus, Frontinus and Sallust assert. They also made bridges for the passage of armed men, of hides and leather bags joined together." All this is well known to the learned; whence I know not how Pitiscus on the word *utricularius* could write *utricularii sunt fabri utricularis tibiæ*. "Utricularii are makers of the bagpipes;" whereas, the inscription of Gruterus quoted by him, leads to a very different conclusion, it being dedicated to the manes of one *Gaius Pasquius optatus Patronus fabrorum Navalium Utriculariorum et centonariorum*. A race of people which has no connection whatever with bagpipers.

Muratori in mentioning the college of Utricularii says that "the word occurs in a few of the inscriptions of Gruterus, Sponius also mentions an inscription in which is seen a College of *Utricularii*. *Utricularii* were a kind of sailors who used *Utriculi*, that is small vessels." And a little after he adds "those also are called *Utricularii* who play on a pipe joined to a leather bag. But at present we speak only of sailors."

III. Conjectures concerning the Statue here described.

It is evidently a matter of difficulty to determine with certainty the person or divinity represented by this statue, as no sign, inscription or mark appears on it. Some probable conjectures therefore shall only be laid down, on which every one may be at liberty to form his opinion.

The Sculpture of this bagpiper is coarse, so that it may be supposed with great probability that it was made at a very remote period, or in an obscure place, or by poor Shepherds to represent some deceased relation or friend, or some rustic deity.

Some persons perhaps may suppose that they have discovered in it a statue of Atys, who was beloved by Cybele, and afterwards changed by her into a pine, according to Ovid:

Et succincta comas hirsutoque vertice pinus
Grata deum matri, siquidem Cybelius Atys
Exuit hac hominem truncoque induruit illo. METAM. L. X.

Though it is not certain that the Bagpipes were used in the festivals and sacrifices of Cybele yet it may be deduced from the recital which Apuleius makes of the College of priests of the Mother of the Gods. These went through the streets of the city and towns, *Cymbalis et Crotalis personantes Deamque Syriam circumferentes*, "playing on cymbals and Castanets and carrying about the Syrian Goddesses—hence it may be conjectured that among the players of the above-mentioned instruments, were bagpipers also, as their instruments correspond so well with others of a noisy kind. Moreover Apuleius says, that having been conducted to the dwelling of these priests, he there saw *quidam juvenis satis corpulentus et Choraula doctissimus*—"a young man somewhat corpulent and a very skilful *Choraulas*;" whence I infer that the Bagpipers were among the priests of Cybele, because, as has been observed above, *Choraules* is a name given by Hyginus to the *Pythaules*, who are the same as our bagpipers. It might therefore be asserted with some probability that some worshipper of the great Mother Cybele had made this statue to represent the Shepherd Atys, in the act of sounding an instrument usually employed in her festivals. I shall not however deny that the dress of Atys in antient monuments is very different from this.

This Shepherd of ours may also by some be supposed to be a Paris, who, as is notorious to every one, though a son of Priam the last king of Troy, was brought up by Shepherds on Mount Ida and led a country life until he went to Greece on his famous expedition. And in fact the Phrygian Cap, which is to be seen on the head of this Shepherd, and the pastoral instrument he holds in his hands, furnish some probable arguments for such a supposition, but I will not venture to assert any thing positively concerning it.

It may also be said that it represents a Bacchanal, as the Bagpipes were an appendage to the equipage of Bacchus; but no emblem or attribute of a Bacchanal is to be seen on our Statue. I therefore think that such feeble conjectures should be neglected, and that we shall come nearer the truth, by supposing simply as I have already said, that it is intended to represent some deceased Bagpiper celebrated among the Shepherds, whose effigy had been made for his remembrance by his friends and relations.

That it represents a Shepherd cannot be doubted, as his garments are similar in every respect to those of the Shepherds engraven on the Gems in the Florentine Museum, and to the labourers, who are to be seen in many Bass-reliefs mentioned by P. Montfaucon. The wind instrument he holds in his hand, by us proved to be rustic, serves to mark this very strongly.

To this may be added in the last place, that it was the custom among the antients to commemorate both by statues and inscriptions, the celebrated players on any musical instrument, as is attested by numerous monuments and inscriptions, where many players on the flute and trumpet are named and represented, as may be seen in Bartolinus, Boissard, and in the works of Gruterus and Muratori.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE following article is taken from the Appendix to Martin's History of Thetford. It is copied from an original record in that borough, when John le Forrester was mayor, in the 10th year of Edward 3d. A. D. 1336. It is so far curious, as it exhibits an authentic account of the value of many articles at that time; being a bill inserted in the town book, of the expenses attending the sending of two light-horsemen from Thetford, to the army which was to march against the Scots that year:

To two men chosen to go into the army against Scotland	£1	0	0
For cloth, and to the tayler			

for making it into two gowns	0	6	11
For two pair of gloves, and a stick or staff	0	6	2
For two horses	1	11	0½
For shoeing these horses	0	0	4
For two pair of boots	0	2	8
Paid a lad for going with the mayor to Lynn, to take care of the horses*	0	0	3
To a boy for carrying a letter to Lynn	0	0	4
Expenses for the horses of the two for four days before they departed	0	1	0

* The distance between Thetford and Lynn is about thirty-three miles. M.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ST. PATRICK, AT MAYNOOTH, NEAR DUBLIN.

From Lond. M. Mag.

THE idea of a seminary for the education of Roman Catholics in Ireland was first started under the short but popular administration of Lord Fitzwilliam, in 1795. The act, however, for endowing such an institution did not pass, till Earl Camden had succeeded to the vice-royalty. Before that period the Catholic colleges on the Continent were frequented by the Irish, both clergy and laity, for the purposes of education; and an Irish Catholic never considered himself more at *home* than when *abroad*. In every country in Europe was he caressed and encouraged. To every country but his own, were his talents acceptable. In the career of science or of military honours, he met with no obstacle, but at home. There was he an alien indeed: there was he treated as an enemy to God, and to his king. This system, persevered in for hundreds of years in vain, ought at least to convince the world that those who remained Catholics were sincerely so; and upright sincere men are never to be despised because they are mistaken. To think that they would be better christians, or better subjects, by being deprived of a regular education was too absurd. To assert, that in this uncivilized state they would be less bigotted to their own principles, and more open to conviction or conversion to Protestantism, would be doing little honour to the Protestant religion, and less credit to the penetration of Protestants. Experience has completely belied that assertion, if ever it had been made. So that there remained nothing now to be done but to give both clergy and laity as good an education as possible.

A people so zealous, and at the same time so numerous, required a numerous clergy. We have no documents before us for ascertaining the number of the regulars educated on the Continent. We learn, however, that there are still friars of various religious orders in Ireland, such as Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, Augustins, &c. &c. who all had their convents abroad, or free access to the convents of other nations. The two first had very numerous houses in Louvain: Prague had an Irish convent of one hundred Friars. Lisbon and Rome, Lorraine and Flanders had others: in short, in almost every Catholic seat of learning there were Irish Friars! It would appear their number far exceeded that of the secular clergy. They are now dying off, and if there be no extraordinary supply of well instructed successors, their loss will be severely felt by the Catholic congregations that are under their charge.

Of the secular clergy,* or clergy properly so called, brought up on the Continent, the following is the statement of Dr. Dunn laid before the House of Commons.

	Scholars.
In Paris, Coll. des Lombards	100
Ditto, Community rue Cheval Vert	80
Nantz	80
Bourdeaux	40
Douay	30
Toulouse	10
Lisle	8
Total in France	348

* The *secular* clergy are so called from *seculum*, the world: because from their duties they are obliged to intermix with the world. The bishop is the only superior of all the secular clergy in his diocese. They are not bound by the vow of poverty, nor do they live in communities. The *regular* clergy, so called from *regula*, a rule, are bound by their vows to poverty, chastity, and obedience. Where the laws of the country permit it, they live in communities, and have superiors of their own, generally chosen by themselves, and often exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop, except in pastoral functions. They are also called *religious orders*, and of them there is a great variety.

In Louvain	40
Antwerp	30
Salamanca	32
Rome	16
Lisbon	12
	130
	348
Total	478
Professors	27

Of the whole number, about fifty-two supported themselves, or were supported by their friends. The others were either supported by foundations and bursarships, or lived during their residence at the college by the exercise of sacerdotal functions. For necessity had introduced and sanctioned a practice peculiar to Ireland. This was to ordain the young priests previous to their studies, and when they officiated for the first time, a collection or offering was made by the congregation to equip them, and bear their expenses to the Continent, where serving the altar, they continued to live by the altar till they finished their regular course. It may be supposed that this method was attended with much inconveniences; the studies were in general hurried over with too much haste; but the wants of the Catholic congregations were often too urgent to admit of more leisure.

By such resources was the priesthood recruited before the French Revolution: that event deprived the Irish Catholics of almost every means of religious education. The annual supply of about one hundred secular priests, and at least an equal number of friars, had failed for several years and of course the number of vacancies had increased to an alarming degree, when the Catholics of Ireland ventured at last to petition government for leave to found a college from their own contributions. No farther did their petition go: no more did they stand in need of pecuniary aid, however, inconsiderable from each, one shilling, nay sixpence a head, would from such a population have amounted to more than was required. But without permission they could not dispose of their own money in their own way. By the laws still existing, every foundation, every legacy bequeathed to the education of Catholics is superstitious, null, and of no effect.*

Here the administration seems to have been embarrassed. To refuse the prayer of the petition would have been illiberal in the extreme, and would have forced the petitioners to keep up the connection with the Continent, under all its disadvantages: to grant it, would be rendering the Catholics of the country the independent patrons of their own schools and system of education. Government, therefore, adopted a medium: the Catholics obtained leave for one college, to possess in land one thousand pounds a year, and no more:† but then eight thousand pounds were granted by parliament, with the expectation of the same grant being renewed annually; though without any certainty. This precarious and insufficient boon was hailed by the unsuspecting Catholics, as the most auspicious omen of future favours: while by the cabinet it was probably intended as the means of controling both pastors and people.

The sum of eight thousand pounds was given for the education of Catholics, without distinction of laity or clergy: but before education could commence, buildings were requisite to be found. For this purpose *no money* was yet appropriated: years therefore might elapse before, from the saving of the fund, any houses could be erected. Five years had already passed away since the connection with the Continent had been interrupted; five more must pass over before the new seminary could be fitted up to receive its compliment of pupils and professors.

Never was there a better opportunity of forming a selection from the literati throughout the Catholic coun-

* This is stated as a preamble to the Act. "Whereas by the laws now in force in this kingdom, it is not lawful to endow any College or Seminary for the education exclusively of persons professing the Roman Catholic religion, and it is now become expedient that a Seminary be established for that purpose, therefore be it enacted, &c." 36 George III. cap. 21.

† In 1794, the Musicians of Dublin got an Act passed in their favour without difficulty. They were empowered to possess an unlimited fund: to chuse and dismiss a committee, &c. Happy fidlers!

tries of Europe; most of whom, especially such as belonged to the clerical orders, had been set adrift by the consequences of the French Revolution; and would eagerly have embraced any decent offer of a permanent establishment. But alas, for want of means, of a building, and of a perpetual grant, only two foreigners were adopted as members of the college; and three natives of merit received their appointment the first year, 1795. The latter were the professors, Aherne from Paris; Clinch and Eustace, both educated in Ireland. The college has already lost Dr. Aherne, by death, in a very few years; and the other two by resignation. Delort, an emigrant of repute as a natural philosopher, has also vacated his place by resignation on his return to France. So that Abbé Darré, a Gascon, is the only one remaining of the original scientific teachers. The other appointments of the first year, such as that of President Hussey, D.D. Vice-president Power, A.M. Secretary Dunn, D.D. &c. served more to the formation than to the celebrity of the institution.

Such an opportunity of uniting all the literary talents of the Continent, can never recur. It is fruitless now to lament the parsimony and the shuffling which prevented Ireland from profiting by it.

The next year, 1796, the college made a great acquisition in Dr. Claney, an Irish professor from Prague; and the only professor of the Holy Scriptures the establishment ever had.

Before the end of 1795, the studies commenced; for we reckon thirty-seven students who entered immediately, of whom, thirty-five were twenty-five years old and upwards, on their admission; two were younger and soon left the college, while the others prosecuted their studies and were ordained in due time. In the second year only nineteen more were admitted; making in all forty-six students; to these thirteen others were added in 1797.

In the year 1798, the number of admitted were nineteen. None hitherto had paid any money on admission; we presume the buildings had not been fitted up for their reception, so that students and perhaps some professors must have lodged with the villagers. We reckon eighty-one admissions in 1799, and now for the first time, we find admission-money amounting to nine hundred pounds. And need there was, for this year government gave nothing.*

This seems to be the first money received by the college, exclusive of the parliamentary grant; for, although the Catholics had petitioned for permission to endow this seminary, and had actually obtained leave to receive subscriptions, and even to purchase land to the amount of one thousand pounds; it appears, that for the first years, it received neither legacy nor donation, and, for five years, not one hundred pounds were bequeathed for so necessary a purpose. If we consider the liberality of the Irish character, and the multitude of adherents to Catholicism, we can account for this no other way, than by the decay of religious zeal, or an implicit reliance that parliament would provide sufficient funds.

In 1798, the college lost its first president,† Dr. Hussey, who was promoted to the see of Waterford. Dr. Flood, a man of superior abilities, formerly professor of divinity in Paris, succeeded. Two other appointments took place the same year, viz. that of Abbé De la Hogue, who had been twenty years professor in the Sorbonne, and had the reputation of being one of the first divines in his church. He accepted of the chair of moral divinity and theology, which, on the death of Dr. Aherne, he exchanged for that of dog-

* In the second year, 1796, the grant was only seven thousand pounds, "to enable the trustees to build a seminary capable of containing two hundred persons. In 1797, the sum of ten thousand pounds was given, and in 1798, that of ten thousand three hundred and two pounds, five shillings, and ten pence, to complete the building of the Catholic seminary at Maynooth. It is expressly required that an estimate and plan be laid before parliament, and thence we may suppose the odd pounds, shillings, and pence, to arise. The sum total expended in building and enclosing, to 1808, is stated at twenty-one thousand six hundred and forty-three pounds, one shilling, and nine pence half-penny; yet Sir John Carr asserts, that government advanced forty thousand pounds for building! What a stranger to Ireland!—In 1799, we find no grant whatever.

† Before the bill passed the House of Commons, there was a petition, probably from Dr. Hussey and Co. against the appointment for trustees, to their mode of ins

matical theology; the place he now holds. The other appointment was that of Dr. Ferris, to be dean or *magister officiorum*. This gentleman, by birth an Irishman, had filled much higher situations abroad. He had been superior general of the congregation of the Mission in Paris, one of the most esteemed orders in the church.* On the revolution in France, he had held the place of assistant-general of the same institution in Rome.† He now fills the chair of moral theology. The same year a professor of English was added to the establishment; who is the only teacher not residing in the house.

The year 1799 is remarkable for the new office of agent, whose labour, if we may judge by the salary (three hundred pounds) far exceeds that of all others concerned about this institution. We are not told by whom he is appointed, nor what are his important functions.

We should not have been surprised to have seen him, on a late occasion, at the bar of the House of Commons, pleading the cause of his college; did we not remember Dr. Milner's remark on Ireland, "that of all countries that is the country of jobs."‡

At length, in 1800, the house began to assume a more respectable appearance. One hundred and two new students were then admitted, and their contributions on admission are stated at one thousand three hundred and eighteen pounds one shilling; to this, seventy-two pounds, ten shillings, were added in donations; hence the office of a treasurer became necessary; that of librarian was annexed to it, and both were superadded to the post of secretary of the board of trustees. This plurality of offices, however, does not seem to be accompanied with a plurality of salaries, at least there is none annexed to that of treasurer or librarian.

Another addition was attempted in 1800, viz. that of a lay-house. A priest is appointed prefect over this department of the college, or the embryo of the lay-college. The first prefect vacated in a few years, nor do we find any one appointed from the college in his place. The only master in the lay-house, besides the prefect, was a professor of Greek and Latin, but he is also only mentioned once; and when he vacated in two years, his place was not filled again. About this time, objections had been made to the education of lay scholars; as if all the Catholics, except its priesthood, were doomed to eternal ignorance! The laity, however, spurned the idea, and by subscription, erected a lay-college which had its own president, &c. without having any farther dependence on the clerical house.

While on the subject of this lay-college, we cannot but avert to the reasons for such an establishment, as stated by Dr. Milner.† "To speak the plain truth, says he, we wish our youth in general to be educated apart, precisely for the opposite reason to that which makes you wish them to be educated at the universities. You desire them to be sent there, that, by associating with other youths, whom you call more liberal, we, more lax, they may lose their religion. We wish to keep them at a distance from such society, for fear of the same consequence. We are full as anxious about the morals as the faith of the rising generation. Now we have been taught by the writers of the day, who have the best means of gaining accurate information concerning

terference in the education: this is stated to belong to the caput and professors. The petition was fruitless; the trustees remain empowered by the act to legislate under the control of government. This board is formed of the four first judges, viz. the Lord Chancellor, &c. four Catholic archbishops, several bishops, lords, and gentlemen.

* The Congregation of the Mission was one of those new religious families founded by St. Vincent. They were also known by the name of Lazarists. From their order were taken the presidents of seminaries for many of the dioceses in France. The clergy were in the habit of making what they termed their spiritual retreat, in these houses, under the direction of the fathers of St. Lazare. They not only sent missionaries to infidel nations, but also at home, they went about preaching; they had likewise the care of schools and hospitals.

† Plus potuit fama virtutis apud alienos, quam sanguinis proximitas apud suos.

‡ We are given to understand that the agent is a person nominated by government to act for the college, which he seems to do most passively.

*Inquiry into Vulgar Opinions, &c. concerning Ireland. Lett. iv. p. 25.

the state of morality in the universities, to form a very unfavourable opinion of it."

If Catholics be impressed with such ideas, need we wonder at the preference they give to Catholic houses of education. And would it be consonant to the liberality of the times, to refuse them their choice? Coercive laws to that effect should always be deprecated, as of the most mischievous tendency. Dr. Milner may, perhaps, be not quite so correct when he says, "that it is required of students in the Protestant universities to frequent the established service." That such may be their statutes, we admit; but in Dublin, attendance is never expected from students professing themselves Catholics; and, on two days in the week, fish is always provided for those who do not eat meat; nay, Trinity College showed itself hostile to any illiberal measure, when, on a late occasion, solicited, encouraged, and even threatened by a very great personage. To this university we believe Catholics have free access as students, and may, perhaps have the honour of getting scraps of that one dinner per day, which Dr. Duigenan tells us with regret is all that an orthodox Protestant can procure. From the fellowships and all the dignities of emolument in this college, Catholics are for ever debarred;* *Procul O! procul este profani!* And in the late most gracious acts passed in their favour, they are admissible as Fellows, Provosts, &c. in all colleges in Ireland, with the exception of the college of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, the only one in the island; and also with the exception of any college exclusively appropriated for persons of their own persuasion! That is, we grant you every thing excepting—all things.

While such is the encouragement held out to Roman Catholics to frequent our universities; while such an example of liberality is given by the legislature; need we wonder that, as Dr. Milner says, "Catholic parents will judge for themselves in these matters, and that the school in question being supported at their expense, they are not obliged to give an account to any one of the motives of their choice."*

So much for the lay-college, which Dr. M. assures us has now no farther connection with the Ecclesiastical Seminary, but that its members frequent the same church, and attend the same philosophical lectures. But we are not informed whether these lectures are given gratis to the young lay-gentlemen.

In the year 1801, the entrance money amounted to one thousand one hundred and thirty-six pounds, yet by the tables it appears that not more than thirty-two students were admitted. If there be no typographical error in dates or money, we should suppose the terms of admission to have been raised this year. In 1802, twenty-six is the number admitted, and their entrance-money amounts to two hundred and eighteen pounds: the three years following, the number of students gradually increased till 1806, when we find sixty-seven were admitted on the foundation, and paid six hundred and twenty-eight pounds entrance.

The total amount of entrance money for the last nine years is stated at	£5,635	16	1½
Legacies† and Donations	3,012	13	0
	£8,648	9	1½

* The junior lecturers of Maynooth, would tremble at the three days examination of a junior fellow for Trinity College. The latter must be thoroughly versed in the whole circle of science, astronomy, mathematics, ethics, physics, logic, chronology, history, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, &c. &c. &c.

* In the original act, there is an evident intention of educating both clergy and laity; why then the lay-house should be laid aside or separated, we know not.

† The principal legacy ever bequeathed to this house, was that of the ex-catholic bishop of Cork, ex-protestant peer, Lord Dunboyne, who having reached an advanced period of life without ever coming to years of discretion, succeeded to an estate and peerage, and wishing to leave a representative of the illustrious house of Butler, *de sa propre façon*, claimed in vain of the Pope the princely privilege, since granted to Talleyrand. Finding Rome inexorable, Dr. Butler took upon himself his own dispensation: still hoping to rest in the lap of mother-church, as well as on the bosom of his fair lady. The terrors of excommunication at last frightened him out of his wits, I mean the little that remained of them; for dreading to be

From the year 1801, the Seminary has seen some of its own plants rising to goodly trees: there are no less than seven among the superiors or lecturers, who owe their education to the establishment. And it is no doubt with a view to encourage them and their successors, that the trustees have tied up their own hands from employing in the principal departments any but such as are lecturers on the foundation.

Among the number is a professor of Irish, established in 1804.

The college sustained a great loss by the death of Dr. Flood, its second president, in 1803, and is now under the direction of Dr. Byrne, formerly superior of the Irish college in Nantz;—Dr. Dunn,* his immediate predecessor, having resumed his first situation as secretary to the trustees, librarian and treasurer. The only late acquisition from the Continent is that of Abbé Anglade, a Parisian professor of divinity, who has accepted of the chair of logic, never before filled.

On reviewing the whole establishment as it now stands, we cannot but consider it as economical and well-organized.

The president, Dr. Byrne, enjoys the moderate allowance of one hundred pounds a year, with nearly so much more to enable him to meet casual expenses, such as travelling charges to Dublin, and postage, besides entertainment to the trustees and other strangers who may visit the house. He is the only one in the house furnished with tea, sugar, and other groceries, at the expense of the college. He has also a servant, whose wages are paid by the house. The professors have bed and board, fire and candle, besides their respective salaries.

The vice-president, who is also professor of French; and the two first professors of divinity, have each one hundred and five pounds a year. The dean, procurator, two professors of philosophy, and one of belles-lettres, have eighty-five pounds; the lecturers seventy-five pounds.

Heaven forbid that we should presume to make comparisons between the orthodox Trinity College, destined to train clergy for one seventh of the island, and another fitted out for six-sevenths at least! But yet, as a matter of curiosity, we copied from Sir John Carr, that the provost of Trinity college has one thousand five hundred pounds a year;—senior fellows eight hundred pounds a year; juniors one hundred pounds, which, with well-paid tuitions, makes them opulent. Even the professor of chymistry and mineralogy has three hundred pounds, besides fees. Let it not be said that these have families to maintain, for by their institution they are celibatarians, as well as their brethren of Maynooth.

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driven from the church, he ran out, of his own accord, read his recantation of errors which he believed to be truths, and continued to live a Catholic, although legally a protestant. Disappointed in his hope of transmitting a coronet to his posterity, the Reverend Peer bethought himself, though late, of recovering a crown of heavenly glory. To redeem his iniquities with almsdeeds, and to make due reparation to the church for the scandal he had given, he consented, after providing amply for the partner of his bed, to leave the greater part of his property to the college of Maynooth. This was more effectual than the most public penance could be! To this, what would be a separation *a mensa et thoro?* It carried conviction along with it. His relatives, however, though Catholics, did not conceive it so needful that his transgressions should be redeemed at their expense. They contested the will, and the trustees of the college have consented, when empowered by parliament, to compromise the matter, and to accept of the one half. Thus the cause commenced at the Trim assizes has been finished by the parties. There is no clue left to trace the other benefactions to their source; we could have wished the accounts of the college had enabled us to do honour to the memory of its principal benefactors.

*Though strangers, we can gather enough from the appointments of this reverend gentleman, to consider him as one of the main supports of this establishment. His first appointment, as secretary, bears the same date with that of Dr. Hussey, the first president: by his local knowledge, he must have been extremely useful to the board. In five years we find him librarian and treasurer: hence, we cannot but suppose that the library was collected by him, and the greater part of the donations procured by his exertions. We see him president in 1803, and voluntarily resigning in 1807, after having planned the enlarged buildings, and having obtained the additional grant of five thousand pounds.

Those who do not reside in the house are differently paid; the professor of English has one hundred pounds; the treasurer and secretary, seventy-nine pounds; the physician, fifty-six pounds; and the agent, three hundred pounds. When we consider that no fees whatever are paid by the students, we cannot but consider the appointments very moderate where the confinement is for ten months of the year uninterruptedly.

The accommodation of the students has hitherto been indifferent; to wit, an empty room without fire or candle, furniture, or books; generally three and sometimes four to one room: each pays for his own cloaths, washing, &c. which besides his entrance money, may be rated at twenty pounds per annum. On this plan the original building accommodates two hundred students. The first addition was calculated to give better accommodation to at least fifty more, that is, to give each his separate room. The second additional wing remains unfinished. At present however there is more room than subjects: the return of 1808 being two hundred and five, instead of two hundred and fifty.

The great vacation lasts two months, but even then no student can absent himself without leave from his bishop.

GENERAL ORDER OF EACH DAY.

Morning.

5 o'clock, First bell
5½ —— Common prayer
6 —— Study in the public halls
7½ —— Mass
8 —— Breakfast
9 —— Study in the public halls
10 —— Class
11½ —— Recreation
12 —— Study in the public halls.

Afternoon.

1½ —— Class
3 —— Dinner
5 —— Class of modern language
6 —— Study in the public halls
8 —— Supper
9 —— Common prayer
9½ —— All retire in silence to their chambers.

Every Wednesday, general walk or relaxation.

PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT, 1808.

Office.	*Names.*	£.	s.	d.	
President	R. Pat. Jas. Byrne, D.D.	*227	10	0	
Vice-President	R. Frs. Power, A.M.	106	0	0	
Dean	R. Thos. Coen	85	0	0	
Procurator and Bursar	R. Mich. Montagu	85	0	0	
Prof. Dogmat. Divinity	R. L. De la Hogue, D.D.	106	0	0	
Prof. Moral Divinity	R. Ed. Ferris, D. D.	106	0	0	
Prof. Nat. Philosophy	R. A. Darré	85	0	0	
Prof. of Logic	R. Fr. Anglade	85	0	0	
Prof. of Belles Lettres	R. Ch. Lovelocke	85	0	0	
Prof. of Greek and Latin	R. P. M'Nicolas	75	0	0	
Lecturer of Dogm. Divin.	R. M. Crowly	75	0	0	Master of Music, 10*l.*
—— of Moral Divin.	R. D. Sinnott	75	0	0	
—— in Logic	R. W. Conolly	75	0	0	Sub-Librarian, 20*l.*
Prof. of Irish	R. P. O'Brien	75	0	0	
Prof. English Elocution	Mr. Mark Usher	100	0	0	} The four last do not reside in the house.
Treasurer, Secretary	R. A. Dunn	79	12	6	
Physician	Thos. Egan, M.D.	56	17	6	
Agent	Alexander Knox, esq.	300	0	0	
		1862	0	0	
Two annexed Salaries, as in Margin		30	0	0	
		1892	0	0	

* President's real salary, 113*l.* 15*s.* remainder for casual expenses. No salary mentioned for the librarian or treasurer, the present secretary filling all these places, and receiving no other emolument. Commons, groceries, fire and candles are the usual advantages derived from the fund, which, however, the Professor of English does not enjoy, his salary being 100*l.* a-year.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON CREDULITY.

NOTWITHSTANDING I am a firm believer in the doctrine of the progressive improvement of mankind, I frequently meet with occurrences to shake my confidence in it; I, however, am inclined to believe, that these are only exceptions to the general rule, and therefore, notwithstanding occasional unfavourable appearances, I retain my early prepossession in favour of this doctrine, so consolatory to the friends of man.—Yet I must admit, that this improvement is not rapidly progressive, but proceeds by slow degrees.

Mankind appear to be divided into two classes, the dupers, and the duped. The former being the smaller number, exert their pernicious activity to impose on the unreflecting part of the community, and are very unwilling to forego the advantages they acquire over the numerous flocks of the duped, and which advantages they are careful dishonestly to turn to their own emolument.

I think there is more of this dupery in England than with us: not, I suppose, from their greater credulity or cullibility, but because being a richer nation, they are better able to afford the luxury of being duped. From them, therefore, as affording the most prominent instances of cullibility, I shall for the present principally select my examples.

About twenty-two years ago I was in England, when the rage of animal magnetism was in fashion; it was the general subject of conversation, and many from whom better things might have been expected, were first dupes, and then in their turn became dupers in this silly mystery. I had the curiosity to go to see these tricks practised by a physician in Bristol, on a number of persons seated in a room for the purpose. The operator walked round his company; he pointed his fingers at them individually, and I observed he particularly tried to rouse their imaginations, and touched such parts of the body as were supposed most likely to be susceptible of nervous sensation, particularly the stomach, and between the fingers. The company on that evening seemed peculiarly insensible; they were mostly of the working class of the community, both male and female, and appeared so fatigued with the labours of the day, as to be very little sensible to the powers of imagination. They showed no symptom of being disturbed; the operator gave up further practising on such unpromising subjects, and I came away without beholding them thrown into a *crisis*, as in their jargon they called the effects of their imposition. Animal magnetism long continued its hold of English credulity. It was imported from France, like other cast off fashions of that volatile people. It had been introduced into that country by a German quack, Mesmer, and from his name was denominated Mesmerism; but in Paris its reign was short, for a committee of the French academicians, among whom was associated for this purpose, the sagacious and quick-sighted Franklin, detected the imposition, and interrupted its progress in the fashionable circles of Paris. The disappointed Mesmer inoculated the English, and for a considerable length of time animal magnetism was one of their reigning follies.

To animal magnetism next came its fit successor Perkinism, or the metallic tractors of Dr. Perkins, a physician from Connecticut, in North America, who contrived for a number of years to fill his coffers by practising on English credulity, and selling his tractors, two small pieces of metal, of about the size of black-lead pencils, at five guineas per pair. He has since retired to his native country, to enjoy the fruits of his imposture. I think I am fully warranted in designating his tractors by the title of an imposture, which he knowingly practised, because on being required to explain them to some physicians, and other men of science, he declined; but contented himself with speaking ambiguously of their nature, so as to endeavour to give the appearance of their being connected with the effects of Galvanism, that wonderful discovery, then, and even still, so imperfectly understood; but with which there appears no reason to connect them, as, if he could have demonstrated the connection on scien-

tific grounds, he would, doubtless, have availed himself of the opportunity to have shown their affinity to legitimate science. It is true he procured attestations of cures performed by his wonder working tractors, in removing rheumatism, paralysis, and various other maladies to which human nature is heir. But the value of these attestations, and how easily they can be procured from the dupes of credulity, were strongly exemplified, and brought to the test by the late ingenious Dr. Beddoes, a name dear to the lovers of science. He provided two bits of sticks, resembling the tractors in shape; coloured them, one red, and the other black, and dignified them with the names of rouge and noir. He assembled his dupes, and practised on them, as Perkins had done with his tractors, and obtained attestations of cures he had performed by his harmless pieces of wood. He then published the attestations of his imaginary cures, and rendered true science, and the art of healing, the essential service of demonstrating the real value of such attestations, and showed the frauds practised under cover of them by the friends of the tractors, and other venders of quack medicines.

This detection is a useful chapter in the natural history of man, and shows how liable he is to become the dupe to his credulity, and to the impositions of the designing. Tractors yet hold their place, and have their advocates, in spite of detection, and in opposition to the principles of true science, and may probably descend to posterity with their worthy associates, the Balm of Gilead, of Dr. Solomon, and the empiricisms of Dr. Brodum, and other quacks.

So far imposture and cullibility have been pourtrayed, as they were connected with medical science. When connected with theology they have produced equal aberrations in the human intellect. Brothers utters his insane ravings: they pass for prophecies among his scarcely less insane votaries. He is shut up in an asylum for mad-men, while they walk at large, and by common courtesy are supposed capable of performing the functions of life, among which it must be allowed that in the estimation of many, reflection and examination do not form a necessary part. The learning of a Halhed did not prevent him from supporting in his place, as a member of the British house of commons, the reveries of Richard Brothers. Indeed we are able to furnish a match for the learned Halhed, in a member of our Irish house of commons, who advocated the doctrine of the millennium, and boldly pronounced that the union of Ireland with Great Britain would never take place, because it was inconsistent with his fanciful interpretations of the Revelations. In the instances of Halhed and Dobbs, there is no ground to impute imposture to them; the whole tenor of the life of our country-man, whose character is best known in this country, leaves no room for the imputation on him, and the conduct of the other is equally free from reproach. They were led astray by their fancies: but the cullibility of those who adopted their wanderings is no less to be noticed, and no less strong proofs of the credulity of mankind are, in these instances, afforded. Let a doctrine be ever so absurd, it will have votaries, for credulity will ever be a prevailing disposition, until mankind more generally exercise an independent judgment, and think for themselves. Indolence or a disinclination to be at the trouble to examine, and ignorance the consequence of such a disposition, will always make fit instruments to be wrought upon by the workings of insanity, or the lures of imposture.

The prophecy of Brothers, that London would be destroyed by an earthquake on a certain day, and his other similar vagaries were not verified; and the dissolution of the Irish parliament, and its incorporation with Great Britain, however contrary to the construction of a figure in the revelations did certainly take place. The votaries of credulity, uninstructed by such failures, did not reform, but were disposed to give equal credence to the next tale of wonder. Probably some may say, as Dr. Johnson attempted to reason about ghosts, that no one can disprove their existence, or say that the Cock-lane ghost could not act, as was credulously believed at that day, until the entire business was known to be an imposition, and a foul conspiracy;

for Dr. Johnson, with his high learning, was a dupe to credulity and superstition. By such sophistical argumentation, he might, with equal propriety have proved the existence of witches, fairies, vampyres, "gorgons, hydras, and chimeras dire," and the thousand non entities adopted by the credulity of mankind in ancient and modern times. To give up arguments drawn from facts, and to have recourse to suppositions and the doctrine of probabilities would tend to bring us back to the tales of the nursery, and produce a compiete retrogradation in human knowledge.

I shall now bring forward another instance of the prevailing fondness for believing the marvellous, and mention Joanna Southcott, who has collected a large party in England, to support her pretensions to a divine mission, and to the gift of prophesying. She and her disciples claim "that she is an handmaid of the Lord, to precede the second coming and the reign of Christ on earth, for 1000 years, which events are immediately to take place: that there are many instances well attested of the appearance of persons deceased, to several now living, who have confirmed the truth of her mission, and charged their friends to acknowledge its authenticity: and that she hears a still small voice, as a rustling wind, which dictates the whole of her writings, neither studied, nor submitted to subsequent alteration."

This woman has been making these pretensions since the year 1792, and whether she be self imposed on, a dupe to her own fancies, or as an impostor attempting to dupe others, or probably acting in both characters, she has contrived to procure a large number of followers, of various professions and ranks. Credulity, like Fame, is honoured by a numerous attendance.

——"Suppliant crouds the shrine attend
And all degrees before the Goddess bend."

Joanna Southcott numbers among her votaries, members of the establishment, and has her disciples among the different classes of dissenters; for credulity does not exclusively belong to any one sect. Daniel Roberts a Quaker of Painswick in Gloucestershire writes a pamphlet to declare his belief in her divine mission, and to complain of the conduct of his society towards him on account of his reception of her doctrines, and entitles his book, "Observations relative to the divine mission of Joanna Southcott, with a detail of the proceedings of the people called Quakers against a member for his belief," in which he details many particulars of her supposed prophecies. He admits that her prophecy of the scarcity in 1800, though written, was not published till after the event.—In 1803 she is reported to have prophecied the downfall of the Turkish empire, and of the city of Medina: and the destruction of Medina in 1805 by the Wahabees is held to be the accomplishment of her prediction—He says she predicted the deaths of two bishops of Exeter, and of Pitt and Fox—But he brings forward no proof of these predictions being clearly made before these events took place, and credulity with her fanciful interpretations of obscure and studiedly ambiguous expressions is a bad evidence in such a case.

Thomas Philip Foley, Rector of Old-swinford in Worcestershire, has published an advertisement in the Leeds Mercury, dated in March last, in which he vindicates Joanna Southcott from having predicted the destruction of Bath on Good Friday last, when many of the inhabitants, dupes to their superstitious fears, left that city in expectation of the prophecy being fulfilled—it appearing to be another woman who imposed on their credulity. He also endeavours to vindicate Joanna from want of discernment in giving one of her seals to Mary Bateman who lately occasioned the death of Mary Perigo, the poor woman in Leeds, who fell a prey to her own credulity, and that of her equally credulous husband. Joanna Southcott has been charged with selling her seals at half a crown each, for she assumes the right to seal the elect; for the refutation of this charge and for a short summary of her doctrine, I shall give the Rector's words; as affording a curious instance of his ready faith.

"To the third. This is as unfounded as the second charge, viz. "that

Joanna Southcott has sold her Seals for half a crown each." Now it happens there are more than fifteen thousand people who can prove she never sold a Seal in her life, or ever suffered one to be sold; for her seals were given "without money, and without price," a free gift to all that had faith to believe in her inspired writings, as well to the rich, as to the poor.

"Having thus cleared up the charges against Joanna Southcott, I shall give a short sketch of her divine mission, which is to warn the world of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to destroy Satan's kingdom of misery, evil and woe, and to establish his own glorious kingdom of love and peace upon the earth for a thousand years, as is promised in the 20th chapter of the Revelations, when he will reign in spirit among the children of men during that period before the general judgment."

It is time to close this disgusting catalogue of human errors—I shall only adduce one more instance. William Huntingdon, a man in London, who modestly adds S. S. (sinner saved) to his name, receives whatever he prays for. He stood in need of a pair of breeches, and prayed accordingly: next day a pair which exactly fitted was sent to him—The credulity of his flock is likely to be pretty highly taxed. He will probably be as hard on them in praying, as Sir William Johnson was with the Indian in dreaming. The Indian said he dreamed he received a present of a handsome coat from Sir William, who in his turn dreamed that the Indian had given up to him a large portion of his hunting grounds. Both dreams were fulfilled, but the Indian declined any longer to continue the commerce. Probably the Sinner Saved may also tire out his congregation with his prayers.

From all these instances one inference is clear. When we depart from the guidance of reason we are liable to fall into innumerable errors. Ignorance is the source of credulity.

We are therefore imperiously called on to instruct ourselves, and to attend to the results of experience. If the many would by the acquirement of knowledge, and a consequent enlargement of mind, raise themselves above the rank of dupes, the number of dupers who have been accustomed to prey on them would speedily decrease, while another numerous class, who are first duped, and then unwillingly lend themselves to spread the imposture, would see through the snare, and no longer without any bad intention act as decoys to others. According to the aphorism of Lord Bacon, "knowledge is power," especially if our attention is directed to that kind of knowledge which is best adapted to our individual sphere: we are culpable if we neglect the means of acquiring it, when we have them within our reach.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

If the object of the Belfast Magazine be to bring forward the germ of knowledge, as well as display its more mature branches, the accompanying essays, composed as school themes, may not perhaps be unworthy of insertion.

VIS CONSILI EXPERS MOLE RUIT SUA.

IT is wisdom that raises us rational beings above the rest of the creation. It regulates all our desires, and guides us in all our pursuits, showing to us what is worthy of our attention, and how our ends may be attained. To this, our mental part, the body is subservient, and is merely the instrument with which we transact. Without prudence our strength is of no use; we attempt things which are impossible, and frequently turning our backs on the very object we wish to obtain, run blindfold; and the more strength we have, the farther we are driven from the desired point.

It is not the body alone that requires the restraint and direction of wisdom; but also our desires, if not restrained by reason, would hurry us on to the greatest improprieties. And indeed the strongest minds have generally the strongest desires; like a rapid river which having once overrun its banks takes a great strength to restrain and force it back into its proper course; whilst a mind of weaker powers can be restrained by a weaker impulse. Thus nature has it so planned, that where she has wantonly bestowed

her gifts on some, she has counterbalanced those gifts with equal disadvantages. But to return to our subject, before the invention of gunpowder, it was necessary that a man should be robust and strong, else he would never be able to undergo the fatigue of battle; for on strength alone their success depended. But however important strength may have been, all the forces of Greece could never have taken Troy without the wisdom and prudence of Nestor. And in those days when strength was in highest estimation, it was never esteemed equal to prudence, which may be proved by their poets painting Minerva, or wisdom, conquering Mars, or the strength of arms, in every attack.

For examples of the superiority of wisdom over bodily strength, let us read the battles of the Persian war, but especially the battle of Salamis, where, Themistocles having drawn up his little fleet in a narrow part of the bay, the Persians were unable to bring all their forces into battle, and those vessels which could not be placed in battle array on account of the narrowness of the sea only served to confuse the rest. So that the Persians being deprived of both the power of fighting, and flight, received a total rout from the enemy.

INVIDUS ALTERIUS REBUS MACRESCIT OPIMIS.

Envy is the pain which we feel at another enjoying the good which we ourselves desire and have expected. It is a pain which a noble mind can never suffer: it arises from a depraved selfish disposition which cannot endure the welfare of others. As there is no just grounds for envy, it can admit of no consolation; we wish to hide our spleen for fear of being reproached; and thereby shut up a viper in our breast that is continually preying on our heart. Hatred and malice, which are more voracious than vultures, are always tormenting the envious man, who, like the bat, flies from the light, devoting his hours to darkness and solitude.

There is no passion has been so destructive as envy; almost all the broils, assassinations and conspiracies during the Roman empire, were merely owing to this, and was it not envy that first brought "sin into the world and all our woe?"

There is no hatred so strong as that through envy, and the only cause of this hatred is, that another having been desirous of the same object as ourselves, has been more fortunate in his pursuit. If a man had even policy, he would never show himself to be averse to the prosperity of his friends, for the gifts of his brother may in many respects be useful to him. But all chance, this; the envious man loses, and has nothing in exchange for it but a continual fretting, and gnawing of his heart. He detests the appearance of mirth and joy: his only joy is the misfortunes of his neighbour, and as Ovid remarks:

"Vixque tenet lacrymas, quia nil lacrymabile vidit."

Detraction seems to be the whole employment of the envious man, he catches at the failings of his neighbours, in order to expose them, and he does not stop to ridicule even their virtues, by turning them to scorn! and as what is straight seems crooked, when seen through the water, he wishes to make every one appear worse than he really is. And as for detraction, it cannot be so managed but it will be found out. He that is still putting in caveats against men's good thoughts of others, will soon discover himself to do it through envy, and that will be sure to lessen their esteem of himself, but not of those he envies, it being a sort of proof of those excellencies that he thinks them worthy of envy.

DEGENERES ANIMOS TIMOR ARGUIT.

In the earlier ages of Greece and Rome, men were not respected on account of their riches, nor were they accounted noble because they were descended from rich parents; but it was wisdom and courage that raised them above their fellow-citizens. The renowned Socrates, whose father was a statuary, and mother a midwife, was raised to the head of the Athenian state. Demosthenes was the son of a blacksmith; and Miltiades, who at the head of the Athenians, overthrew the vast armies of the Persians, was forced to die in confinement, because he could

not pay a fine of fifty talents, which was imposed on him by his fellow-citizens.

We may see from Homer, in what estimation courage and valour were held. Through the whole course of the Iliad, the bold and courageous claim all our attention, whilst the powerful Agamemnon scarce occupies the smallest particle of our concern. We do not hear of any Greek boasting of being descended from rich parents; they gloried in having forefathers who had done great services to their country, as the sons of Hercules, who boast of *their* descent, whose father was a slave. Hence, it was courage alone that was esteemed nobility, therefore nothing was so great a mark of degeneracy as fear.

A man without courage is unable to perform any business of difficulty; his heart fails him at the least opposition; and when danger appears, he is confused and embarrassed, sinking under the weight of his own fears. But the brave man moves on like a great river, bearing off before him all the obstacles that oppose him, and growing more powerful where he is most opposed.

When a brave man is encountered by misfortunes, his calmness alleviates their weight, and his constancy surmounts them.

It is wonderful the influence that a courageous soul has over the body. It invigorates every limb, and gives us as it were a double strength; whereas, on the other hand, the fear of death kills more than death itself.

We may see the various effects of courage and fear, from the battle of Thermopylæ, where a few Greeks, with a firm resolution to die, killed thousands of the enemy. On the other hand, the Persians being surprized at an assault so unexpected, and an attack so vigorous, yielded themselves as a prey to the Spartans.

In short, there is nothing so necessary as courage; for as dangers and misfortunes are more or less the fate of every one, it is necessary we should have a sufficient share of courage and patience to support with a becoming resolution the various vicissitudes of life.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A FATHER, HIS SON, AND DAUGHTER.

Father. WHAT book do I see you so intensely engaged in reading?

Daughter. Burns's works. I cannot stop reading either his prose or verse, when once I begin.

Father. Which do you like his melancholy or cheerful pieces best?

Daughter. Indeed they are both so evidently the overflowing of his heart, that they touch mine equally.

Father. I think he indulged too much in the satirical; his writings appear to me calculated to injure the cause of religion in young minds; and his unguarded conduct had a still greater tendency to injure by example.

Daughter. Perhaps so; but it is evident to me that he only intended to ridicule hypocrisy or superstition. In his serious writings, we find Burns adoring religion, and trembling at the consideration of his sins.

Father. He had a warm heart, and strong feelings, therefore he strongly felt the power of religion, as well as the power of evil temptations. He had a keen perception of all the sublime and beautiful in nature and religion; there is nothing so much calculated to excite pathetic feelings, or raise the soul to sublime heights, as a sense of religion; yet this extatic or melting devotion I do not think calculated to render us really good, self-denying, and steadily, perseveringly virtuous; like other strong passions, they burn out, and a void is left—a painful or wearisome void. How did Burns occupy that void?—other passions arose in the stead of those momentary raptures; the love of admiration, of social company, where his abilities might be called forth, drew him, as it has often done more steady characters, into the love of drinking. His tender conscience, and all his fine feelings are lulled to sleep, or banished from his mind;—the intoxication is over—remorse fills the dreary vacuum; he flies back to the cause of his remorse; he drowns it again—again it arises, and again and again in ten fold force; his wretchedness overwhelms him, and he sinks

into the grave a victim to the noblest and tenderest feelings perverted.

Daughter. What a dreadful picture you draw! Yet he often repented.

Father. He did often and often repent, and for the time felt the most poignant regret; but let his example be a warning to us to govern our slightest evil passions. If we have superior abilities they were given to us for other purposes than to excite admiration: they need not be hidden under a veil, nor drawn forth into the glare of sun-shine; they may be calmly dedicated to some useful purpose in life.

Daughter. But every one is not calm, and would it not be a great pity to level the nobly aspiring mind into an insipid, calm character? Are there not many good uses for animation?

Father. There are indeed, yet the occasions very seldom occur when hurry and bustle are as useful as calmness; therefore he who has strong passions should use the understanding afforded him to keep them all in their places, and doing their own offices; thus none of them will have liberty to run ahead. I believe our Creator has not formed any of us without all our rigging being complete enough to answer his purposes; nor is it his purpose that any of us should run to destruction, nor can we expect to arrive at the desired haven, without having many things to war with. Burns had sense enough to blame himself—he felt remorse, which he would not have felt, but that he knew he had the power to do right, yet suffered his passions to bear down all before them. Henry, when you were in Scotland, did you hear of his family?

Henry. You may be sure I made inquiry immediately, because every thing belonging to that truly inspired bard excites interest. I learned that his wife now lives in Dumfries, next door to a very kind neighbour who acts as a father to her children. Robert was for some years at Oxford College, where he showed some poetic genius. He lately went to the West Indies. Francis Wallace Burns, was at Edinburgh College, but died of an influenza in 1803, to the great grief of his mother and friends, as he was a noble youth. Willie Nichol was then with his mother, and James Glencairn at the Blue-coat school in London. I heard that their mother found it difficult to maintain them, but with her own economy and the help of her friends, she did maintain them with credit. The following lines were found pinned on Burns' grave: the author is unknown.

"Here rests the bard whom fancy once inspir'd,
Whom nature's charms with sweetest raptures fir'd;
Whose artless strain, impassion'd, tender, strong,
Still shows the pow'r of soul-subduing song;
Whose wit and genius, sense and taste revere,
While pity drops upon his faults a tear:
Yet here no frail memorial marks the spot
Where Burns now lies, neglected and forgot:
No sculptur'd marble now records his name,
Whose verse to others gave immortal fame;
That verse, whose beauty, where-soe'er he lie,
Forbids his memory or his praise to die."

Some of the admirers of Burns afterwards erected a tomb-stone over his grave, and the following inscription was proposed for it:

"If sweetest thoughts in simple language drest,
If vivid wit has pow'r to move thy breast;
If nature painted with a master's hand,
And poet's skill, thy passions can command,
Here, Reader, pause—and Fancy's child admire,
For here he rests, who well could strike the lyre.
If pity touch thee, shed one friendly tear;
If blameless, censure him, for BURNS lies here."

The mother, and two sisters of Burns, were still living, and his brother Gilbert maintains the same excellent character which he always did. This much I have from good authority.

FLORA.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I AM happy to see that a portion of your useful miscellany is dedicated to the improvement of the rising generation, in the publication of plans for extending the benefits of education; and, I conceive, that many of your readers would be gratified, if per-

sons who are engaged in the business of instruction would communicate to the public such methods as they have used most successfully. Lancaster's publications have been received with that attention which they merited, and many useful hints have been taken from them; in the same manner, the peculiar system of each individual might suggest improvements to other persons.

I hope it will not be considered presumptuous in me to take the lead, and, with your permission, to submit to the public some of the methods which I have practised, with great satisfaction, and considerable success, for several years. They are the result of long experience, and a variety of trials; yet I am far from pretending to say that they are perfect, or that other teachers may not, perhaps, have adopted better ones. My object is to submit my own system to public animadversion, so that both I, and those who peruse the remarks upon it, may be improved, while the example may be followed by those who have things of more importance to communicate. The subjects upon which I propose to offer my ideas are, English Composition, Letter-Writing, Orthography and Premiums. For improvements in the method of conducting the two latter, I am almost entirely indebted to Lancaster.

The afternoon of every Saturday is dedicated to composition. Immediately before the school breaks up, the several subjects are proposed; and on the following Monday morning each lad gives in his piece. This is then examined, and corrected under his own inspection; and he copies it, thus corrected, into a fair book, which is kept in the school-room for this purpose. By this means, and the most vigilant attention to see that there be no unfair assistance given, a neat and correct miscellany is made out by every scholar, of his own composition. Every means is used to stimulate the laudable pride which they take in reviewing their own productions, and exhibiting them to others.

The greatest difficulty which teachers commonly find, is to make young persons *begin* to compose; natural diffidence combining with want of ideas and of judgment, to prevent the first attempt. In this respect, however, I am gratified in finding no difficulty. On the contrary, my pupils are eager to be permitted to join in these exercises, and to experience the importance of being authors. To excite this desire, and to bring them gradually forward, the whole school is divided into three classes. The lowest class, which comprehends the very youngest that can write a legible round hand, are told some short, entertaining narrative; and I have generally found it best to give them, at first, stories that conclude with something humourous or whimsical; the idea of labour being lost in the pleasantness of the tale. This, they must write in the fairest hand that they can, and with strict attention to capitals, punctuation and orthography. Still, it may be supposed, that a number of errors will occur; but, as no reprehension attends these errors, and the exercise is very fascinating, it is surprising how soon the little stories are fit to be transcribed into the fair books, with very little emendation.

The second class consists of lads who are more advanced. To them a longer narrative, or a descriptive piece is related in the same manner as to the youngest class; and the same attention is required in every part. The books from which the narratives and descriptions are read, are "The Historical Magazine, Goldsmith's Animated Nature, The Spectator," and others, that afford a variety of subjects, expressed in plain and elegant language.

The most advanced scholars form the third class: these begin with themes, which they are taught to manage nearly according to the rules contained in "Walker's Teacher's Assistant in English Composition." Occasionally they are permitted to relax in the composition of a narrative, or descriptive piece, which they consider as mere pastime. Having composed several themes, they proceed to essays; which they are taught in the same manner how to manage. At first, the whole substance of the essay is read to them, afterwards, only the several heads of it, and at last the subject alone is proposed.

By this means the mind is led gradually on, feels and knows its own strength, acquires correctness of taste

by the imitation of the best models; and finally, produces such original ideas, decked in such correct language as would be no discredit to persons more advanced in years.

Should you, Sir, think this communication worthy a place in your Magazine, and should it stimulate other teachers to communicate their systems to the public, I shall state my plan of Letter-writing, Orthography and Premiums. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

WM. NEILSON.

Dundalk, July 5, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IT is with much diffidence I offer any observations on the culture of Flax, or the preservation of the seed, being satisfied many experienced farmers have practised similar or better plans to accomplish both objects. I can only wish, from a statement of facts, to combat, in hopes of controverting the general impression, that home-saved seed degenerates in quantity and quality. I saved it for nine successive years, until the heavy rains, in July 1807, laid down the Flax, and prevented the seed from attaining perfection, but the produce has made, and is now making sixteen-hank yarn. Convinced of the propriety and profit on saving seed, I purchased from a neighbouring farmer five bushels, which had been saved from Dutch seed, the preceding year; this was sown the 2d of April, 1808, on 4*a*. 1*r*. Cunningham measure, one half of this land had been under oats, and ploughed early in November, the remainder had a crop of potatoes in the drill system, but from the rain that fell in October could not be earthed up. I was obliged to lay out the ridges with a line, and form the furrows with the spade. The crop was much injured by the severity of the season; as soon as weather permitted I had recourse to rolling, which I have found, after frost or scorching winds, a most useful operation; I kept the ground clear of weeds, and pulled the Flax when the bolls appeared firm; this, as well as many other things, must depend much on the appearance of the weather, and more on the judgment of the farmer; the great point is to preserve the seed without injuring the staple of the flax; when pulled, it was formed into small sheaves, about eight inches in circumference, and immediately set on an end, or stooked, and permitted to remain for two days; less will do if the weather is favourable, as in my opinion, exposing the Flax, as is usually practised, to the influence of the sun, dries the oil, renders it hasky, retards the process of bleaching, and consequently injures the fabrick; it was then carted home, and set up on its root-end in houses to which air was admissible; here it remained until the wet mornings, or days in harvest, when my otherwise unemployed reapers took off the seed with hand-beetles; it was then passed through the winnowing machine, and spread thin on a boarded floor, being frequently turned, or moved with a rake, after a few days put into larger heaps, and lastly thrown altogether, where it continued until seed-time.

I am satisfied there was more attention paid than requisite, but my wish was to do it justice. Whatever flax was cleared of the seed in the course of the day, was watered in the evening, by which means there was never too much work on hand, and a capability of managing a large quantity with little comparative expense or trouble was afforded.

I have observed that every 24lb of flax will have one bushel of seed, this much enhances the value of the crop, even in the cheapest seasons, and renders it an object of the farmer's most serious attention. As to the little cottager, he has it in his power to preserve a few quarts, by merely taking off the bolls, exposing for a short time to the sun, enclosing them in a bag, and hanging them up in some dry part of his cabin, he will thus save himself the trouble of borrowing the money for his ensuing year's seed, or purchasing it on credit, at an exorbitant interest, his flax will not be injured for home manufacture or reduced in value for the market.

On the principle of both public and private interest, I rely that my brother farmers will use every exertion to preserve the stamina of our trade, as all that is requisite to obtain this great na-

tional object, is the exercise of that judgment and sedulous attention which they so eminently possess. Could my name add any interest to the cause, with pleasure should it be inserted, but intending at some future period to express my sentiments on the subdivision of land, short tenures and rack rents, shall subscribe myself, AGRICOLA.

Our Correspondent sent an estimate of his profit, but the value of the flax-seed appears so over-rated that we are apprehensive of a mistake in the calculation. As the season for putting flax is at hand, we are unwilling to delay publishing the letter, by waiting to have the accuracy of the statement ascertained. We request Agricola will re-examine the account; if necessary it may be inserted in our next number.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A TEST OF THE SECURITY OF VACCINATION.

ON looking over the last number of the London Monthly Magazine, I perceive that the following method to discover whether the patient has regularly passed through the cow pox, so as to be effectually secured from the small pox, is recommended on the authority of Dr. Jenner. The dissemination of this intelligence through your Magazine, may be useful.

A READER.

LET a patient be selected, on whose arms the vaccine pustules have *regularly* advanced to the 7th, 8th, or 9th day: from one of these pustules, let the subject intended to be put to the test of security be re-vaccinated. At the same time, and with a portion of the same vaccine fluid, let another child, who never has had either the cow-pox or the small-pox, be also vaccinated. On the arms of the child put to this test, if it was previously secure, the virus will produce in a short space of time (two or three days perhaps) an inflammation around the parts punctured, and sometimes small irregular vesicles, accompanied with itching, which commonly dies away, long before the regular pocks on the arms of the child that had not been secured, arrive at maturity. The reason why Dr. Jenner recommends the vaccination of a child not in a doubtful state, with the one whose situation may be supposed doubtful, is to prove to a certainty, that the vaccine fluid employed, is in a state of perfection. The insertion of variolous matter by way of test, in the early periods of the vaccine practice, was adopted and recommended by Dr. Jenner; but although it did not produce the small pox on those previously vaccinated, it sometimes occasioned very extensive and troublesome inflammation on the arms.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO A YOUNG NOBLEMAN JUST ENTERING UPON THE POSSESSION OF A GREAT ESTATE.

MY LORD,

THE very eminent station which your Lordship's rank and property has placed you in, is alone sufficient to render you both a conspicuous and an important character in the world. The dignity which mankind, by the consent of common courtesy, have attached to exalted stations, has descended to you with your titles and estates. This will command the admiration and respect of the bulk of mankind, who will readily give your lordship credit for many of those virtues which ought to adorn the rank of life which you are called to fill. But, my lord, something more than the possession of hereditary estates and titles is necessary to give your lordship a real title to the character of a great and a good man. Something more than the bare *imputation* of *virtue* is necessary to your obtaining that *permanent reputation* for wisdom and virtue, which will proclaim you the friend of mankind during your life, and hand down your name with honourable respectability to that posterity, which will truly appreciate, and impartially exhibit your real character to the world at large.

It is particularly unfortunate for mankind in general, as well as for the nobility themselves, that the fashionable mode of education is calculated to debar them from the acquisition of almost every species of knowledge, which a man of common sense sees to be absolutely necessary to qualify them for the discharge of the great and important duties which are inseparably attached to their exalted stations. The

natural consequence of this unhappy defect is, the commission of the *management of their estates* to their agents. Now, an agent is one whose principal business is to ingratiate himself with his master, by squeezing the uttermost farthing of *ruck-rent* out of the starved bellies of a laborious and industrious tenantry. The sweat and blood of these distressed objects of oppression is conveyed to the extravagant landlord, who hastens to sacrifice them at the shrine of debauchery, intemperance, and dissipation. Notwithstanding, there are happily many honourable exceptions to the general observation; and numbers of our nobility are no less distinguished for their wisdom and public and private virtue, than dignified by their rank and titles; and many of them are the pride and ornament of the nation, as well as pillars of the state; yet still, it must be acknowledged to the discredit, as well as grief of the nation, that too many of the young nobility and gentry, both of England and Ireland, appear to consider their ample estates as given to them for no other purpose whatsoever, but as means of gratifying their sensual appetites, and administering support to their idle or criminal extravagancies of debauchery or amusement. Placed out of the reach of the groans, out of the sight of the naked poverty, and kept in total ignorance of the pining want or wasting sickness which inhabit the cabins of their poor tenants; and which, although unheeded by man, ascends in tremendous accents to heaven—inattentive to those calls of humanity, the heir to a rich and plentiful estate, riots in the wantonness of luxury, and spends upon the bosom of his infamous harlot the hard-earned guinea, for the want of which the weeping cottager oft sees his beloved offspring expire in his feeble arms!

My lord, such men, however dignified they may be by titles, which their virtues never merited; however enriched by estates which their industry never acquired; however flattered by fawning sycophants who live upon their extravagance, falsely termed generosity, are a disgrace to human nature. They are not merely useless members of society—they are the nuisances of the community. The nation is cursed by their existence. Totally destitute of the feelings of humanity, and strangers to every noble and generous sentiment which characterises the man and the christian, they naturally sink into a common level with their fellow brutes. Shut out, by the common consent of wise men, from the rational walks of dignified society, they associate where their inclinations prompt them; they cultivate an acquaintance only with dogs and horses, and with the refuse of mankind, ejected from the stews and brothels of a polluted metropolis, the filthy scum of those accumulations of vice and debauchery; till at length, their short but infamous race being run, they descend to their untimely graves, loaded with the most fulsome diseases, and groaning beneath the execrations of mankind, and most probably under the justly merited curse of God himself.

My lord, permit me to observe, that the esteem, the friendship, nay the very acquaintance of these men, is a sure passport to the detestation and contempt of mankind. But as they unhappily abound in our fashionable circles, how shall you avoid the contamination of their acquaintance?—only by treating them with absolute contempt. If your lordship has the resolution to despise the folly of such companions; to assume that dignified deportment which so truly becomes your rank, and which alone can adorn your character, these *satellites of infamy* will not presume to intrude themselves into your company. That virtue which bears so amiable and captivating an aspect in the social intercourses of rational friendship, flashes lightning in the faces of those sons of dissipation and folly. My lord, *you have only to be wise*, and the votaries of folly will fly your presence, as the shadows of night retire before the cheering beams of the rising sun. Should your lordship happily obtain the *malicious censure* of those disappointed wretches, could you have a more solid testimony of your wisdom and virtue?

If public report speaks truly of your lordship's character and understanding, they constitute you a happy exception to the too general character of our young nobility; and it is even said

that the seeds of some virtues, both public and private, already begin to shoot in your lordship's breast, and to manifest themselves in your conduct in life. May I be permitted to congratulate your lordship upon your miraculous escape from the snares which must have attended your arrival at the age of maturity, in such a city as London—in such an age as the present? It argues well for your judgment and for your heart: it promises well for your future conduct through life. You are born to a noble inheritance: a rich and fertile estate awaits your enjoyment. Your numerous tenantry already hail the auspicious moment of your accession to your paternal inheritance. Your situation is important! The happiness of thousands, whose industry pours inexhaustible treasures into your lap, seems to wait upon you for its consummation. As you depend upon them for your daily bread, so an equitable Providence has made them dependent upon you for the comfort of their lives. You rank high above them in the esteem of mankind; but, in the esteem of that Being who has lent you an estate for life, and has given and supports that life to enjoy it, you are on a perfect level with the poorest cotter on your land. Nay, if that man has more intrinsic virtue than your lordship, he stands higher in the favour of his God, and bids fairer for a more glorious inheritance, when your honours shall be laid in the dust.

There is indeed one essential distinction between your lordship's situation and that of your poor cottager: I mean, in the power which you possess of doing good. And for this, my lord, permit me to observe, your *responsibility* is increased in the same proportion as your *wealth* abounds. If there are duties due from the tenant to his landlord, there are others due from the landlord to his tenant; and from the man who possesses great wealth and power, to those, who, possessing neither, are constrained to look up to those above them for protection or support. A wise and gracious Providence has so blended the interests of mankind, that all ranks are dependent on each other for mutual assistance: and as this is due from all to the community at large, so none can refuse or withhold it without manifest injustice. And in order to render our duties reciprocal, and to ensure the exercise thereof as far as circumstances can command it, we find mankind possessed of different qualifications, and invested with different talents, to be applied to the general good of the community. I mean not, my lord, to level the natural and proper distinctions of mankind, but only to assert the obligations which every man lies under, to exert himself, and his influence, be it what it may, for the good of the whole.

Great and extensive are the talents committed to your lordship's trust: The proper use and improvement of these will not fail to render you honourable, wise, and happy. The abuse of them, on the contrary, would infallibly disgrace your character, stamp it with the stigma of folly, and hand down your name with infamy or contempt to succeeding generations. My lord, if wisdom, integrity, and virtue, were the birth-right of wealth, and a dignified station in life; were they transmissible in conjunction with estates and titles, there could be no occasion for my intruding these observations upon you. Nay, were these exploded principles any longer taught in our universities, or considered as necessary appendages to greatness, my address might be deemed impertinent. But, alas! my lord, it is but too evident, that the sources from which our young nobility derive that instruction which is to form their principles, and direct their conduct through life, are often poisoned with infidelity; their information miserably defective, and their practices polluted with a corrupt morality, even before they leave the public seminaries of education. From thence rushing at once into scenes of excess and riot, their education is finished in the brothels or gambling-houses of the metropolis, that sink of pollution, and receptacle of every species of vice.

As your lordship is now breathing the purer country air, in and about your charming villa, give a stranger leave to introduce a little homely philosophy, and to inculcate a little morality, founded upon the solid basis of reason and religion, and to recommend those virtues in a plain country dress, which, perhaps, presumed not to wait upon

you in the gay scenes which you have recently quitted. It is a debt of gratitude which I owe to the grandson of the first M.....s of D.....re. Would to God a more able hand would discharge it for me! But to proceed without multiplying apologies, supposing your lordship should for a moment advert to an important truth; namely, that all things in this world are the exclusive property of that Being who created, and continues to uphold and support them by his almighty power! Supposing you were to consider that by entrusting them in the hands of his creatures for a little time, *as tenants for life*, that glorious being by no means relinquishes his property in them; or resigns his inalienable right to controul and dispose of them as seemeth good to himself. Supposing you were to consider *that God* as not being an idle, or unconcerned spectator of the due management of the various talents committed by himself to the children of men. Would these considerations at all derogate from the wisdom, goodness, or dignity of that Being, whom our national religion teaches us to call our God?—an awful and comprehensive name, my lord, and one to which we are taught to believe, every knee shall one day bend, and every tongue confess! My lord, I have in my possession, a little book, *once supposed* to have been written by immediate inspiration, and consequently of divine authority; which solemnly asserts those and a thousand similar facts. It lays them down as first principles, as guides to both faith and practice. Could the belief of them diminish the lustre of your chrracter? No, my lord, it would add splendour to your dignity.

But supposing, my lord, you were to carry your ideas a little farther, and even to consider the great proprietor of all things as having appointed your lordship as a steward over a certain part of his possessions for a limited period, known indeed unto him, but totally unknown to your lordship; and that he had committed much of the happiness of some thousands of the inhabitants thereof to your care: and moreover, that he will one day require a very particular account from your lordship, how you have discharged the duties of your office, and that you shall infallibly be rewarded or punished according to your conduct therein. My lord, my little book strongly insinuates something like this; and I must confess I can see nothing unreasonable in the idea. The dignity and importance of your rank, and the great and numerous talents committed to your trust, naturally suggests the idea of your responsibility, to a wise and omnipotent creator. Therefore, under this just and proper view of your high station, supposing again, that your lordship, assuming the courage and dignity of an independent man, of a man of sense, and despising the frippery of fashion, should even presume to assert the inherent right you possess, to think and act for yourself, laying down, in spite of the ridicule of fools and knaves, the true principles of wisdom and humanity as the basis of your conduct, and the guides of your actions, supposing you were to look folly out of countenance, and boldly trampling upon pleasure and dissipation, should be determined (and actually reduce that determination to practice) to live for some rational purpose—Nay, my lord, I will not stop even here; but I will add, strange and whimsical as it may appear—supposing your lordship should even venture so far out of the fashionable whirl of folly and nonsense, as really to consult the happiness, comfort, and prosperity of your tenantry! I grant, my lord, the experiment might be dangerous, the precedent would be so dreadfully alarming, the principle so hostile to every man possessing an acre of land to let, that nothing but the most determined resolution, the most unshaken fortitude could bear your lordship up against the torrent of opposition, which would be poured upon you from all quarters. Your reward, must, in such a case, arise solely from a consciousness of doing your duty, and the unspeakable satisfaction of being a faithful steward of the talents you have been entrusted with. I think, however, these might over-balance the contempt of folly, and the reproaches of avarice.

But should your lordship, disdaining the boundaries of a narrow-hearted policy, venture so far into the unexplored regions of philanthropy,

as actually to sacrifice a portion of your great and princely income, at the shrine of humanity, and in a way which wisdom and benevolence unitedly dictate to reconvey a part of that income back to the most indigent of those, from whose naked poverty, from whose laborious toil it is collected; were you to indulge yourself in the unknown luxury of cloathing the naked limbs, and feeding the emaciated bodies of their helpless offspring, out of whose bowels your agents have drained the nutriment designed by a bountiful providence for their support; what exquisite sensations of delight would reward your generous benefactions! How would you teach the *widow's heart to sing for joy*, and with what inward satisfaction would you feast upon the *blessing of them that were ready to perish*? My lord, I dare not attempt to limit the extent of such benefactions, were you once apprized of the inexpressible happiness, both you and they would derive from them. But I will venture to assert, that if only one thousand pounds per annum were laid out in this way, it would yield more solid satisfaction than all the other parts of your income, however disposed of, could possibly do.

Again, I will suppose (O that my suppositions were realized!) that your lordship should bid defiance to the hellish system, the miserable and mistaken policy of granting short and transitory leases, with a view, to transfer the produce of your tenants' industry into the coffers of your successor; that cruel injustice of robbing the industrious peasant of the fruit of his own labour; snatching the improvements himself hath made out of his honest hands, and appropriating it with the curse of heaven annexed to it, to an abandoned favourite, or a dissipated heir, already groaning beneath the load of accumulated wealth. Supposing, my lord, your resolution and humanity were strong enough to break through this barrier of cruelty, injustice and oppression; and, throwing wide the gates of philanthropy, you should grant leases upon which your tenants might with safety venture to improve—might enjoy the heart felt satisfaction of handing down their improved farms to succeeding generations, out of the grasp of a rapacious and unfeeling landlord; would this, my lord, be any thing more than an act of common humanity? Would it in any degree exceed the golden rule of treating others as you would wish to be treated yourself? My lord, make the case your own, apply it to your own estate; and then you will see the matter in a proper point of view; my lord, your tenants have at least the same feelings for their offspring, as your lordship may hereafter have for your own.

Once more; I will suppose your lordship happily free from the direful and contagious mania of imagining happiness to be attached to the mere accumulation of wealth, or to consist in the squandering of immense sums of money upon useless objects of idle curiosity, or criminal indulgence, and that you should really possess the miraculous gift of setting bounds to your desires after riches. That in consequence hereof, reason, religion and humanity should so far prevail in your breast as to cause you to limit the increase of your rents, not by the uttermost farthing which could possibly be squeezed out of the sweat and blood of your wretched tenantry; but by what would allow yourself, your dependants and your posterity, the ample means of supporting *your rank and theirs* in life with ease and felicity, and afford the same comfort according *to their sphere of life*, to those whose labour gives you that support. My lord, conduct so noble, so god-like, would exhibit to the world the astonishing phenomenon of a *christian landlord*, and as such might indeed subject you to the imputation of having taken leave of your senses. But the censure of fools, my lord, is not to be weighed against the testimony of a good conscience, the happiness of doing good, and the approbation of our God.

Supposing again, my lord (for even the imagination of good is delightful) you were to make it a part of the business of your life (and to confess the truth, I do not know what other *equally important business* you can have in this world) to look after the cultivation and improvement of your estate yourself. Are you not, according to the vulgar, but expressive saying, *all the father*

it has? And is it not, at least at present, all the wife and child you have. My lord, it would be no degradation to your lordship, to consider yourself as the husband of your estate, and the inhabitants thereof as your children. Nor could you embrace a more honourable or a more useful employment than that of studying their interests and happiness; and my lord, you may rest assured of this important truth, that your own interest, prosperity and welfare are so closely connected with those of your tenantry, that you cannot advance the one without securing the other. My lord, you cannot be insensible that all your wealth and much of the dignity attached to your rank, are derived from your estates. It is from the riches of your tenantry your riches are to be drawn; and much of the respectability attached to them reflects upon your lordship. Even the increase of your rent-roll depends entirely upon the prosperity and wealth of your tenants, and this depends altogether upon the proper cultivation of your estates.

It is evident that industry, frugality and economy are the true sources of wealth; and wealth, if properly managed, furnishes all the conveniences and comforts of life, besides attaching a proper degree of respectability to its proprietor. The wealth of the tenant is the best security for that of the landlord. All the laws which ever were framed can give no such security as this. And it enables a tenant to bear without inconvenience, an advance of rent, if such advance is requisite and just, upon the renewal of his lease; besides, an adequate portion of the profits arising from all improvements, will ultimately find its way into the hands of a just and humane landlord. It is therefore the wisdom, the interest, the duty, and the soundest policy of your lordship to promote a spirit of industry and improvement upon your estates; and this independent of the satisfaction which must arise to a benevolent mind from the pleasing contemplation of that happiness which he is the means of diffusing around him. But my lord your tenants cannot improve your estates, cannot cultivate their farms with effect, cannot enrich themselves or you, without the means of doing so. Many of them are too poor to attempt any thing like it: and many others are too ignorant or too slothful to set about it. They want assistance; and to whom can they look with propriety for that assistance but to your lordship? The greater part of them have small and inconvenient farms, held by tenures which discourage every idea of improvement. Hence many parts of a country, capable of becoming rich and fertile under the fostering hand of prudent industry, presents the aspect of a barren heath; and the inhabitants languish under an accumulation of poverty and disease.

Supposing therefore, my lord, you should even condescend to inquire into the true state of your indigent tenantry; supposing you should relax somewhat of the *rack-rents*, under which they groan. Supposing you should select such of your tenants as manifest a spirit of industry and frugality, and make some addition to their farms, giving them leases at a moderate rent, and of a reasonable length; and supposing you were even to furnish some of them with implements of husbandry, and enable them to erect comfortable dwellings, and establish manufactories upon your estates: and supposing, in doing this, your lordship should even make a temporary sacrifice of a few hundreds a year—would this be any source of grief to an enlightened and benevolent mind? Nay, would it be attended with any ultimate loss of property? No my lord, it would both prove a source of solid satisfaction to your mind and lay a sure and certain foundation for a future increase of wealth. It would prove the seed of a future harvest, and the blessing of heaven would water and replenish it. The improvements of an estate not only beautify, but abundantly enrich it also. Every house that is built, every manufactory that is established, nay, every tree that is planted, is a permanent addition to the solid wealth of the estate upon which they stand; a lasting memorial of the good sense and humanity of its proprietor, and a monumental ornament of his wisdom and taste.

The improvement of an estate brings

an immediate circulation of money into it. It gives instantaneous employment to labourers and artificers; sets in motion all the springs of trade, and diffuses a spirit of chearful industry through every department of the community. The establishment of manufactories gives employment to the idle, and presses even the tender hands of infancy into the honourable service of industry. Poverty, nakedness and misery fly from the habitation of the industrious mechanic; and the children of want, exchange their rags for the habits of comfort and decency. What a gratifying sight must this prove to a man, who is conscious it arises from the exertions of his own benevolence!

The practice of these virtues, my lord, would transmit your venerated name, with unfading lustre, to a grateful and admiring posterity. It is these that would trace your well earned praise, in characters sacred to virtue, *upon the tablets of their hearts!* There your name, and the remembrance of your wise and generous benefactions, would flourish, in defiance of the ravages of time, when the faithless marble, which is destined to record your temporary honours, and fugitive titles, is mouldered in the dust. Then, my lord, the pitying passenger, who weeps over your perishing tomb, may exclaim with a mournful sigh:

Sic transit gloria mundi.
So passes the glory of this world!

But the posterity of those, whom your benevolence has rescued from the iron grasp of poverty, would reply, "his blessed memory is graven on my heart!" Is the contemplation of this pleasing to your heart? Does it kindle a spark of generous ambition in your breast? The sensation is truly noble, it does you the highest honour. But, my lord, this is the lowest branch of that praise which awaits the practice of wisdom and virtue. They will be recorded in heaven! There alone they can meet their just approbation and find their adequate reward. How highly is your lordship privileged!—what ample means do you possess of shining among the first ranks of the friends of mankind! How rich, how great, may be your final reward! At the same time, how solid, how firm, how brilliant, how dignified, should those important virtues be, which are destined to grace so exalted a station, to adorn so high a character, to occupy and improve such extensive talents! And consequently how great your obligations to man, and your responsibility to God! My lord, to be the friend of mankind is the greatest character you can sustain on earth; and this title is the noblest encomium which can be passed upon your understanding or your heart. It is the most durable of all praise.

Contrast this pleasing scene, with the diabolical system of injustice, cruelty and impolicy, founded upon the mistaken principle of madness and folly, which supposes it possible to *enrich the landlord*, by *impoverishing the tenant*. By drawing from his industrious hands the scanty means of improvement, which he may haply acquire, and by depressing his mind beyond the possibility of hope you sink him into a state of abject dejection or despair. You cut the sinews of industry asunder, and unbrace every nerve of exertion. Indolence, apathy, and despondency, and their inseparable companions, poverty and wretchedness, are the inevitable result. Let no man fondly flatter himself that these will prove a source of wealth to a rapacious landlord. Every sentiment of humanity, every principle of sound policy, every argument of solid wisdom, unite to execrate and damn the pernicious system of oppression. Every conception we can form of the sacred attributes of justice, benevolence and mercy, those emanations of the Deity, and the exercise of which alone can make us resemble him, recoils with abhorrence at the execrable cruelty of the rapacious landlord, and stigmatizes his character with indelible infamy, who seeks to raise his own wealth upon the poverty and wretchedness of his tenantry. To my mind it perfectly resembles the conduct of a mad-man, who should literally suck the vital stream from the severed veins of his own offspring, upon whose exertions his support depends; what horrible sensations of disgust would this excite in every humane bosom? So, to see

a rapacious landlord sucking the blood of his impoverished tenantry; and sporting away the means of their existence, upon his lusts and follies, is a sight at which the eye of charity must sicken, and from which humanity recoils with horror.

It is true, my lord, *unfortunately true*, that the laws of England can lay no restraint upon the rapacity of landlords. *Their tenants lie at their mercy*—mercy did I say? I ask pardon for the degradation of that sacred term! Mercy and avarice are not merely total strangers to each other, they are irreconcileable enemies. But my lord there is a tribunal: yes there is a tribunal—with what sensations will it one day be approached! A tribunal my lord, which I trust *you will approach without fear*, but where the actions which escape the cognizance of British laws, will meet their just and eternal retribution! There, my lord, yourself and your meanest tenant will meet upon a level. No other distinction will there be admitted, but that which arises from superior virtue. May your lordship stand eminently conspicuous in that tremendous day among the righteous few, and take your exalted station among *the spirits of just men made perfect!* But to leave this solemn scene, as perhaps too grave for a young nobleman, just entering upon the flattering pleasures of life, with every means of gratification in his power, permit me to observe, that unbounded rapacity infallibly carries its own punishment with it, and defeats its own purposes. Your lordship's gardener will inform you that to render a fruit-tree productive, it must be nourished, supported and cherished. Neglect it, wound, or injure it, and you deprive yourself of its richest produce. This observation applies itself.

There is one point more upon which I must beg leave to offer a few observations. It is perhaps a tender one, but I shall endeavour to guard your lordship's feelings as much as possible, while I briefly notice it. It respects the *electioneering influence* which landlords in general expect to posses and exert over their tenantry. I believe, my lord, it is one part of electioneering policy, to divide and subdivide farms, with a view to multiplying votes, until the wretched cottager is almost divested of the means of existence; and is obliged to stretch his conscience no little in swearing himself a complete freeholder. I am far from asserting or even supposing your lordship guilty of sanctioning so base and cruel a perversion of the principles of the British Constitution. But you are exposed to the temptation of doing so, by that universal thirst, I would say rage after electioneering preponderance which every where prevails. What the motives are which excite this mania, I cannot even conjecture; but it is matter of great lamentation that it should so dreadfully interfere with the peace and comfort of society. Nothing is more common, and nothing can be more cruel, ruinous, and impolitic, than, as soon as a lease of forty or fifty acres of land drops, immediately to divide it into four or five lots, and let them, thus separated, to the highest bidder. Certainly, my lord, this—shall I call it internal system of oppression?—is well calculated to throw a decisive weight of influence into the political scale of one, possessing such an estate as that your lordship enjoys; but at what a dreadful expense is it purchased?

In return for this additional preponderance of electioneering influence, your lordship's tenantry must undergo the privation of many of the necessaries of life, and your estate be left destitute of the means of improvement. The farms being reduced to an extent barely sufficient to afford a wretched portion of miserable sustenance to their occupiers, they will be unable to meet and satisfy the continually increasing burthens of rent and taxes; the natural and inevitable consequence of which will be the depopulation of the country. The poor creatures will find no refuge from the fangs of their merciless exactors, but in a precipitate retreat from the scene of their distresses. My lord, these are not imaginary evils; they have been and still continue to be realized in estates not far distant from your own; and not a hundred miles from the *Barony of Lecale*, in the county of Down. And here I cannot refrain from paying the tribute of praise so justly due to

Mr. Savage, whose estates also lie in the same vicinity. It is no disparagement to the best landlords in the nation, to hold up this gentleman as a pattern for their imitation; for moderation and humanity towards his tenantry, I believe he has scarcely an equal in the kingdom. But I trust your lordship will even excel him in these particulars.

Doubtless, my lord, it is highly gratifying to that species of ambition which has electioneering preponderance for its object, to be able to bring so respectable a force into the field of action, as to bear down all opposition and secure an easy and decisive victory. Your family, my lord, has been distinguished for this, and most probably you will feel a drop of the same blood running in your veins. I believe you already posses sufficient influence in that respect, to secure the representation of the county you live in to your friends, without the risk of any formidable opposition. Supposing your lordship should rest satisfied with this, and not run the hazard of having your dying pillow haunted with the curses and execrations of any more victims of a wild and useless ambition, drive not your tenants from the lands of their nativity; from the peaceful abodes of their ancestors, for the gratification of an idle chimera.

Admitting, my lord, what I fear will prove but too true, that your lordship will indulge a wish to influence, and perhaps direct the elections for the county in which you live: you then act in a public capacity, and the public have a right to demand an explanation of your motives. They have an unquestionable right, my lord, to ask, what are your reasons for indulging that wish? As it is not probable they would be favoured with a candid reply, they will infallibly form their own conjectures upon the point. Suppose you wish to *put in a friend* to represent that great and populous county; you will naturally expect his being *your friend* should be a sufficient recommendation to the approbation of your tenantry. But, my lord, I am not quite certain of the soundness of that patriotism, which assumes a right of demanding the elective suffrages of a body of tenantry, as a necessary, a stipulated, or an implied appendage to their leases. I cannot see with what propriety men can thus be deprived of their political freedom, or how the love of our country can consist with this alienation of its dearest liberties, and most exalted privileges. Is it not this very influence, my lord, which strikes at the root of all political freedom, and deprives Britons, and especially *Western Britons*, of the *practical* enjoyment of those inestimable blessings of our inimitable constitution, the *theory* of which renders it the admiration of the world?—It is, my lord; and it is a badge of that base villanage, which distinguished the feudal system of our Saxon ancestors. This might possibly comport with the infancy of our constitution, but the present enlightened period of British freedom demands its abolition, as equally disgraceful to both landlord and tenant, and injurious to the liberties of the nation. *Britons*, my lord, *must no longer remain the vassals of the nobility!* The laws of their country have bestowed and guaranteed their political freedom, and the honour and independence of that country demands its preservation and exercise. It is a sacred deposit which no man has a right to alienate, and the man who basely surrenders it, as well as he who presumes unjustly to claim that surrender, are equally criminal in the sight of their country; they betray the trust reposed in them for the safety and honour of the empire. It is a crime which no private interest can sanction; and which no circumstances can palliate. Therefore I would advise every man who secretly or publickly exerts that species of undue influence, for ever to banish the sacred terms of "patriotism and political freedom" from his lips, lest they become polluted by the unhallowed contact.

My lord, I must beg leave to be candid with you: willing as I am to indulge the most pleasing hopes of your integrity, fortitude, and public and private virtue, still I must confess my doubts if these virtues are yet sufficiently matured to carry you through so great and noble a sacrifice, as the surrender of all undue influence in elections. To give up that dearest of British privileges, to its natural and original owners, would be so great a

phenomenon, such a prodigy of patriotism, as we dare not expect to find in an age so degenerate as the present.—Perhaps a revolution of some kind (may it be only a sentimental and practical one, and not a constitutional one!—) may some day or other produce a reformation in this great and essential branch of our constitution! The blessings attached to a British subject would then no longer remain problematical, but would be clearly ascertained, amply secured, and practically enjoyed. How glorious would it be for your lordship, if you could but assume the courage, and display the integrity necessary to set the illustrious example!

To conclude, my lord: I might offer abundance of apologies for the liberty I have assumed, in thus intruding upon you; and for the apparent freedom I have used in my address. But I shall content myself with one only, that is, the just claim which mankind have upon you for a faithful attention to the duties attached to your exalted station, and your princely income. As I have already hinted, these valuable talents are committed to your care, as to a steward, who is required to dispose of them for the mutual benefit of himself and his fellow creatures. Much wisdom, my lord, and much resolution, great firmness, and inflexible integrity, are absolutely necessary to conduct you safely through life, with your great and valuable charge. It can hardly be expected, that at your lordship's time of life, let your natural endowments be what they may, you can have acquired sufficient experience to qualify you for the immediate management of so important a trust as is vested in your hands. But could your lordship prevail upon yourself to stoop *so very low*, as to imitate the conduct of two of the *greatest monarchs* of their day, I am humbly of opinion you might find yourself assisted through your difficulties, in a way that perhaps never yet struck your mind. The stories I refer to are recorded in the same little book to which I formerly alluded; and they are very remarkable.—One of them relates to a great king named Solomon; of him it is said, that having begun to reign over a great and powerful nation, and conscious of his natural inability to govern them with becoming wisdom and judgment, he actually condescended so far, as to present an humble petition to that God, who is the sole fountain of all wisdom and power, that he would be graciously pleased to qualify him for discharging the arduous duties of his exalted station. And it is positively asserted, that the consequence was, this same *Solomon* became not only the *greatest king*, but also the *wisest man upon earth!* This very circumstance, my lord, induces me to think there may be some truth in a declaration ascribed to that same Divine Being, namely, "*that them who honour him, he will honour; but they who despise him, shall be lightly esteemed.*"

The other story is related of a great king of Egypt, named Pharaoh, who having been warned of God of an approaching famine, had the prudence to employ an active and wise man, as the great steward of his empire, whose wisdom, activity, and foresight, actually were the means of saving the nation under that distressing calamity, and probably of preserving the crown upon the head of its lawful sovereign. I think both these examples good, and well worthy of imitation. But as the book out of which they are taken is greatly out of fashion, it may be a question if your lordship is much acquainted with it: permit me, therefore, my lord, to refer you to your lordship's *chaplain* for a further explanation of its contents. Perhaps he may be able to find one of them among some of his old musty chronicles.

Wishing your lordship the inexpressible happiness of *living long to do a great deal of good*, and of descending late to the tomb of your ancestors, loaded with the benedictions of all your dependents, and with the esteem and regret of all wise and good men; and having your head crowned with well-deserved honours, and your memory perfumed with justly merited applause,

I have the honour to remain,
Your lordship's most humble servant,

CANDIDUS.

Belfast July, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE AUCTION.

Continued from No. VIII. P. 188.

Mercury.

I NOW bring before you, gentlemen, the celebrated Mrs. C. I consider it unnecessary to say any thing respecting her, her valuable qualities having been so very fully detailed in the Newspapers. She is worth at least 1000*l*. Jupiter. In truth I think so, and though I be a little past my prime, I think I will give that for her myself—I used to be a good judge of the pretty girls. Reach me my spectacles, I dont see so well as I used to do.—Ah ha! by my faith, this is not so bad: what do you think, Mercury? Zounds! fellow, she's the very thing. There shant be another word. She's mine. But Mercury, for heaven's sake, dont let Juno know any thing of this business—For if it come to her ears, I shant have a moment's peace. Juno, you know, watches like a dragon: I'm seldom out on the prowl half an hour, till she's at my heels. Mer. Never fear. I'll keep her close, I warrant you; and should there be any danger of detection, I can easily change her into a sow or a goose. Jup. Very well: I'll rely on your discretion and good sense. You recollect, how on former occasions, I have been more than once disagreeably surprized.

Mer. Gentlemen, we deal much, as you will perceive, in the female part of the creation. It would be tedious to set up the ladies we have on hands singly; I shall therefore give you a lot of damsels. They are so plenty with us, that I think we had better put them up in half dozens. Bid. I am afraid that wont answer. If the girls you set up be greatly different from one another, I fear no one will be disposed to purchase. For my part I shant bid for them in this way. I think you had better deal them out one by one, and use all the despatch you can. Mer. That would delay us too much; we have here not fewer than five hundred, all of them in great want of husbands. Sure if I set them up by dozens or scores, a set of you can join about them, make a joint purchase, and dispose of them afterwards among yourselves. Bid. That wont do; you'll find that where one girl is richer than another, all will be looking after her; and there will be no end of quarrelling and fighting. For my part, I intend to look only after the girls that have heavy purses. Jup. It seems to be the general wish that you should set them up one by one. Try that mode, and begin with heavy metal. It is too much the way of the world now, to make no objections to the bitterest pill, provided it be well gilded. I adopted a very different mode when I was five and twenty, I followed after those girls only that possessed spunk and beauty, money was no object with me. Mer. I set up a lady, gentlemen, who is surrounded with the blaze of twenty thousand charms! as to her personal qualities and accomplishments you must judge for yourselves. Bid. Ay now, that is something like: I fancy we are all of one opinion respecting this commodity. 2d Bid. As to money, it is very well. But in other points, I have some objections to her. 1st Bid. Have you? O you blockhead! object to a girl with twenty thousand pounds! Surely you jest. 2d Bid. No, I assure you. There are several things I dont like. 1st. Bid. What? 2d Bid. Do you know the objection the man had to the cow he was about to purchase? 1st. Bid. No. 2d Bid. Then I will tell you; she had too many nicks in her horn. 1st Bid. I understand you. But let us ask the lady herself on this head. Pray Madam, may I take the liberty of inquiring concerning your age? *Lady Whiffle*, most certainly. I am just turned of twenty. 1st Bid. There now, what objection can you make to a lady just turned of twenty, with twenty thousand pounds. 2d. Bid. She has forty nicks in her horn at least. An unmarried lady, you know, never exceeds, according to her own account, twenty or twenty-five at farthest. But when seams, in each of which you may lay a goose quill, variegate the visage, the proprietor may fairly be dated on the wrong side of forty. These are the decorations of age, and indicate experience.

1st Bid. Well, well, experience is a good thing. I dont care what you say; I am determined to have a bid at her. 2d Bid. You are perfectly welcome for me. But, pray, did you ever see the lady before? 1st Bid. Not I, truly. 2d Bid. And you intend taking her without farther ceremony! 1st. Bid. Certainly. 2d Bid. And without feeling any tender passion for her! 1st Bid. To be sure. 2d Bid. O well, well, I have nothing farther to say: I perceive you and I go on very different principles. 1st Bid. Why now, what wise principles of philosophy do you condescend to honour with your acceptance? 2d Bid. Simply this, I should like to love a female, before I thought of making her my wife. 1st Bid. Then if you should happen to love a girl without a sixpence, you would perhaps marry her! 2d Bid. Perhaps I might. 1st Bid. O very well, you are a novel reader, I suppose; you are a little romantic in your views, I perceive; marry a girl without a farthing, roam the wide world along with her, and at length set her down, perhaps, in some humble cottage in the Pyrenees, with an unbreeched offspring, poor and happy! Ah! ha! ha! ha! very good, upon my honour. I must confess Mr. philosopher, your philosophy does not suit my kidney at all. Give me the hard cash, and a fig for your tender passions and your nonsense. 2d Bid. Well then, you should change the names of things. You should say, I intend marrying, not the girl of my affections, but simply and plainly, a piece of household stuff, value twenty thousand pounds—or rather perhaps plainly, I intend marrying myself to twenty thousand pounds. 1st Bid. Well well, you may say what you like. But for that matter, one girl is as good as another, and a lass with twenty thousand shiners may prove to be a wife to all intents and purposes, just as completely as one of your philosophic ladies, with all their fine affections. I assure you, Sir, it is all a joke, you must have been reading novels and romances. But however, you and I shant quarrel; I will try for this damsel, and you may look for some of the girls who have plenty of love; that will serve you: I must have something more substantial, I assure you. 2d Bid. But now, suppose you and this lady do not agree in mind and temper, suppose you are continually quarreling and fighting, as is sometimes the case in married life, will your twenty thousand pounds compensate for all the troubles and distractions you may bring upon yourself by marrying her? 1st Bid. O, never fear! I will have a wife and rule a wife. I will bring her to temper I warrant you, or if I should find her not fit for such a wicked world as this, I can send her to another. That would be effectual relief: I can never be at a loss. And then, my dear boy, my twenty thousand pounds may find means of marrying other twenty thousand pounds, which will make the snug sum of forty thousand pounds. Eh, fellow! there is some sense in that philosophy, I believe; and forty thousand may, by successive generation, produce a plum, the summit of my ambition—Bravo, bravissimo! 2d Bid. I have heard all this without emotion or conviction. I do not say that a girl is the worse for having a fortune; but this I do say, that he who marries the woman he does not love, on account of her fortune or connexions, miserably perverts the intention of nature, and deserves to lose his happiness in the married state. And I say, further, that millions were a poor compensation for the want of that domestic bliss, which is one of the richest ingredients in the cup of human life. It fires me with indignation when I see every day matches formed merely on the foundation of interest, as if the noblest affections of our nature were of no account; and as if it were allowable by the author of nature to sacrifice to temporal views, the finest and most exquisite sympathies of the human soul. Jup. Gentlemen, if you get on in this way, we shall never have done. I conceive that you are now perfectly out of order; I will allow the bidders to ask these wenches any question they may think proper, but by no means to dispute and wrangle with one another. Your conversation, gentlemen, has not altered my mind in the least, I do think now, and I always thought, that it is very natural and

proper for a man to like a girl before he thinks of marrying her. There now, let that rest. The point at present gentlemen is, who will give most for this damsel now before you 2d Bid. I will not have her at all, I find she is very proud, whimsical and ill natured. 1st Bid. Is it so, Mercury, that I can only enjoy her fortune during her life? *Mer.* It is, you will have 6 per cent on 20,000 pounds, for that time. 1st Bid. This alters the case materially. The point now is, how many years' purchase she is worth? I will chance seven years, and deduct 1 per cent on account of her pride and ill-nature. *Mer.* Very well, take her. I wish you much joy; but I fear you will have a good deal of sorrow. 2d Bid. I think the gilding will be off the pill before the honey-moon be over.

A. Z.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON reading your Magazine for May last, I was highly pleased in observing in it a paper "on the comparative strength of Barilla and Potash," as it displays a wish to take notice of whatever relates to the good of the country, and particularly to that of its staple manufacture. The following queries, which occurred to me on the perusal, are now offered to your consideration.

1. The writer mentions that 0 indicates the specific gravity of water, at some given temperature, by his hydrometer, without mentioning the temperature: the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. may reasonably be supposed to be gradations, as the figures express: perhaps they are the ounces of alkaline salt soluble in a gallon of water. But is the Barilla or Potash always free from all other soluble matter so that the specific gravity will show its value correctly according to these numbers?

2. Does Barilla part with its salt as freely to water as potash, when both are treated in the same manner; or may it not happen that when both are treated alike, the Barilla has not parted with all its salt, when the Potash has; and may not this occasion an error?

3. Are Alkalies equally soluble in a mild and caustic state? If not, I should suppose, that this may occasion an error.

4. If alkaline solutions be valuable according to the good effect they have in bleaching, does it always follow that the effect is according to their specific gravities, or not; if not, how can the specific gravities be a true mode of finding the value of alkalies?

5. If alkalies are equally pure in their soluble parts, as in query 1st. and equally yield their salt to water as in query 2nd. and are also equally soluble in their mild and caustic state, as in query 3d. if by rendering them less mild, by depriving them of part of their fixed air after solution, the fluid lose part of its specific gravity, can the hydrometer show their value, unless that in losing part of their specific gravity, their good effect in bleaching is lessened also?

Perhaps some of your Correspondents may answer some of these queries, which may be of use to many, besides yours,

Z.

Belfast, July 1, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I HAVE noticed in your Magazine for June last, in the Ramble to Antrim, an erroneous expression of the writer, respecting his fellow-traveller, though without any malignant intention on his part, where he says, "it is said he has studied himself into infidelity; but is reckoned among the best of unbelievers;" from every observation that I could make, and an early acquaintance, I must do the person here alluded to that justice, to assert that he is not an unbeliever, though he despises the superstition of a bigot, and would sometimes laugh at an old wife's fable. As to the religion of others, it is a question which he wishes to avoid, as he considers, in this country in particular, such discussion, instead of promoting that love and benevolence so wisely enjoined, but too frequently degenerates into hatred and animosity, which has been too long the great cause of internal discord and political debasement.

H.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DSTINGUISHED PERSONS.

ANECDOTES OF TURLOUGH CAROLAN.

THIS celebrated poet and musician, was born in the year 1670, in the village of Nobber, in the county of Westmeath, on the lands of Carolan's-town, which were wrested from his ancestors by the family of the Nugents, on their arrival in this kingdom.* His father was a poor farmer, the humble proprietor of a few acres, which yielded him a scanty subsistence. Of his mother nothing is known. The cabin in which our bard was born is still pointed out to the inquisitive traveller. As it is in a ruinous state, it must soon become a prey to all-devouring time; yet the spot on which it stands may perhaps be visited at a future day with as much true devotion, by the lovers of national music, as are Stratford and Benfield bythe admirers of Shakespeare and Pope.

The small-pox deprived him of his eye-sight, at so early a period of his life, that he retained no recollection of colours. Thus was "knowledge at one entrance quite shut out," before he had taken even a cursory view of the creation. From this misfortune he felt no uneasiness; "My eyes," he used to say, "are transplanted to my ears."

His musical talents were soon discovered, and his friends determined to cultivate them. About the age of twelve, a proper master was engaged to instruct him in the practice of the harp; but though fond of that instrument, he never struck it with a master hand. Genius and diligence are seldom united; and it is practice alone which can perfect us in any art. Yet his harp was rarely unstrung: but in general he used it only to assist him in composition; his fingers wandered through the strings in quest of melody.

When young Carolan became enamoured of Miss Bridget Cruise, of Cruisetown, in the county of Longford, his harp now, like the lute of Anacreon, would sound only of love. Though this lady did not give him her hand, yet it is supposed she did not deny him her heart; or, perhaps, as one of his brothers says,

"Like Phœbus thus acquiring unsought praise,
He snatched at love, and filled his arms with bays."

The song which bears her name is his masterpiece: it came warm from his heart, while his genius was in full vigour. A very extraordinary instance of the effect of Carolan's passion for this lady, is related by Mr. O'Conor: "He went once on a pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Purgatory, a cave in an island in Lough Dearg, in the county of Donegall. On his return to shore he met several pilgrims waiting the arrival of the boat that had conveyed him. In assisting some of these devout travellers to get on board, he chanced to take a lady's hand, and instantly exclaimed, "By the head of my gossip, this is the hand of Bridget Cruise." His sense of feeling had not deceived him: it was the hand of her whom he had once adored. "I had the narrative from his own mouth," says the person by whom this anecdote is recorded, "and in terms which gave me a strong impression of the emotions which he felt on meeting the object of his early affections. Carolan at this time was about the middle of his earthly career."

Our bard solaced himself for the loss of Miss Cruise, in the arms of Mary M'Guire, a young lady of good family in the county of Fermanagh. Miss M'Guire proved a proud and extravagant dame; but she was the wife of his choice; he loved her tenderly, and lived harmoniously with her. It is probable that on his marriage he fixed his residence on a small farm near Moshill, in the county of Leitrim. Here he built a neat little house, where he gave every friend a kind and hearty welcome. Hospitality consumed the produce of his little farm; he ate, drank, and was merry, and improvidently left to-morrow to provide for itself. This sometimes occasioned embarrassments in his domestic affairs, but he had no friend to remind him,

* It is said that thirty acres of these lands were given to our bard by the father of Earl Nugent, the present proprietor.

that nothing can supply the want of prudence, and that negligence and irregularity, long continued, will make knowledge and wit ridiculous, and genius contemptible.

At what period of his life Carolan became an itinerant musician is not known; nor is it confidently told whether he was urged to this change in his manner of living, by want, or induced to it by his fondness for music: by some of his biographers it has been imputed to an early disappointment in love. However this may be, he continued during the remainder of his life to travel through the country in this character, mounted on a good horse, attended by a domestic on another, who carried his harp. Wherever he went, the gates of the nobility and gentry were thrown open to him; he was received with respect, and a distinguished place assigned him at the table.

On his return from one of those excursions, he was asked by one of his friends, whether he had visited Colonel Archdall? "No," replied the bard, emphatically, "but I visited a prince;" thus intimating the hospitable reception this gentleman had given him.

But he had not more reason to extol the hospitality of Colonel Archdall, than that of Mr. Jones, of Moneyglass, in the county of Antrim: nor was he deficient in gratitude for the civilities he received during his stay in that mansion: he has enshrined his hospitable character in one of his best planxties. Of this, the air alone is now to be had, the words are forgotten since the well-known English version, written by Mr. Arthur Dawson, which may be looked upon as one of the best convivial drinking songs extant, and is also admirably adapted to the original air of Carolan. It is in every body's hands, and therefore needless to be quoted here.

It was during his perigrinations, that Carolan composed all those airs which are still the delight of his countrymen. He thought the tribute of a song due to every house in which he was entertained, and he never failed to pay it, choosing for his subject either the head of the family, or the loveliest of its branches.

The subject of one of his favourite and most admired compositions, was the sister of a Mr. Nugent. She lived with one of her sisters, near Belanagor, in the county of Roscommon, at the time when she inspired the bard, and he endeavoured to do justice to her merits in the song now well known by the name of Gracey Nugent.

The following incident gave birth to the piece called Carolan's Devotion:—A Miss Fetherston, of the county of Longford, on her way to church, in Granard, one Sunday, accidentally met with the bard, when the following conversation, as related by a friend of both parties, took place:—

Miss F. Your servant, Mr. Carolan.

Carolan. I thank you—who speaks to me?

Miss F. It is I, sir, one Miss Fetherston.

Carolan. I have heard of you, madam: a young lady of great beauty, and much wit. The loss of one sense prevents my beholding your beauty; and I believe it is a happy circumstance for me, for it has made many captives. But your wit, madam, I dread it.

Miss F. Had I wit, Mr. Carolan, this is not a day for displaying any; it should give place to the duty of prayer. I apprehend, that in complying with this duty, you go one way, and I another. I wish I could prevail with you to quit your way for mine.

Carolan. Should I go your way, madam, I dread you yourself would be the chief object of my devotion.

Miss F. And what if I should go your way, Carolan?

Carolan. I have already declared the sense of my danger in being near you. I well know that the power which some men have of making females converts to their religion can have no effect in regard to you, madam. Your own inherent powers would conquer every thing. In a church or in a mass-house you would draw all devotion to yourself; and so, madam, in my own defence, I must now take my flight.

Miss F. Hold, Carolan, we must not quit so abruptly. As I have been long charmed with your compositions in music, I could wish to see you in our house, and that your visit would be as speedy as possible.

Carolan. Could you, madam, sus-

pend the music of your wit, I should obey your commands cheerfully.

Miss F. Away with your mockery of wit and danger. In listening to your notes, the danger will be on my side. Come speedily however.

Carolan. To please you, madam, is the utmost I can expect; and on the terms I proposed, I will wait on you.

Miss F. You will assuredly be welcome—but pray for me where you are going.

Carolan. Could I withdraw my devotion from yourself, I would obey, but I will make the best effort I can. Adieu.

The event justified his fears. Instead of praying for Miss Fetherston, he neglected his religious duties to compose a song on her. In it he complains, with more gallantry than piety, that the mass is no longer his devotion, but that now his devotion is she. The air of this song is reckoned among one of the best of his musical compositions.

It is remarkable, that Carolan, in his gayest mood, and even when his genius was most inspired by the flowing bowl, never could compose a planxty for a Miss Brett, in the county of Sligo, whose father's house he frequented, and where he always met with a reception due to his taste and endowments. One day, after an unsuccessful attempt to compose something in a sprightly strain for this lady, he threw aside his harp, in a mixture of rage and grief, and addressing himself in Irish to her mother, "Madam," said he, "I have often, from my great respect to your family, attempted a planxty, in order to celebrate your daughter's perfections, but to no purpose. Some evil genius hovers over me; there is not a string in my harp that does not vibrate a melancholy sound, when I set about this task. I fear she is not doomed to remain long among us; nay," added he, emphatically, "she will not survive twelve months." The event verified his melancholy prediction. The truth of this anecdote has been attested by several of the family.

From a neglect in his education, Carolan, at an early period of his life, contracted a fondness for spirituous liquors, which never after forsook him. But inordinate gratifications carry their punishment with them; nor was Carolan exempt from this general imposition. His physicians assured him, that unless he corrected this habit, a scurvy, which was the consequence of his intemperance, would soon put an end to his mortal career. He obeyed, though with reluctance, and seriously resolved upon never again tasting the forbidden cup. The town of Boyle, in the county of Roscommon, was at that time his principal place of residence. There, while under this severe regimen, he walked, or rather wandered about; his usual gaiety forsook him; no sallies of a lively imagination broke out; every moment was marked with a dejection of spirits, bordering on the deepest melancholy, and his favourite harp lay in an obscure corner of his habitation, neglected and unstrung. Passing by a grocer's shop in the town, after a six week's quarantine, he was tempted to step in, undetermined whether to yield to the impulse of the moment, or to adhere to his late resolution. "Well, my dear friend," said he to the young man who stood behind the counter, "You see I am a man of constancy; for six long weeks I have refrained from whiskey; was there ever so great an instance of self-denial?—But a thought strikes me—you will surely not refuse me the favour I am about to solicit. Bring me a measure of my favourite liquor, that I may smell it, and I assure you I will not put in within my lips." The lad complied with his request, and no sooner did the fumes ascend into his brain, than every latent spark within him was re-kindled: his countenance glowed with unusual brightness, and he poured forth the effusions of a heart newly animated, in wild, but poetic expressions over the bowl to which he owed his inspiration. At length, to the great peril of his health, and contrary to the advice of his medical friends, he once more drank the prohibited beverage, renewing the draught, until his spirits had fully resumed their former tone. He immediately set about composing that much-admired song which goes by the name of Carolan's Receipt. For sprightliness of sentiment, and harmony of numbers, it stands unrivalled in the list of our best drinking songs. He commenced the words, and began to modulate the air, in the evening, at

Boyle, and before the following morning he sung and played this noble offspring of his imagination in Mr. Stafford's parlour at Elphin.

Yet, notwithstanding his inordinate passion for spirituous liquors, it is but justice to mention, that he seldom drank to excess; besides, he seemed to think that the spirit of whiskey assisted him in his musical compositions, and therefore, in his latter days, he never composed without having a bottle of it beside him.

To deny Carolan his favourite beverage, was a certain method of rousing his satire. Residing for some time in the house of a parsimonious lady, he happened one day, as he sat playing on his harp, to hear the Butler unlock the cellar door: instantly he arose, and following the man, requested a cup of beer; but the fellow thrust him rudely out of the cellar, declaring he would give him nothing but by his mistress' order. In a rage the insulted bard composed the following epigram:

"What a pity hell's gates are not kept
by O'Flinn,
"So surly a dog would let no body in."

The fame of Carolan, as a musician, having reached the ears of an eminent Italian music-master in Dublin, he put his abilities to a severe test, the result of which convinced him how well-founded had been whatever was said in his favour. The method he made use of was as follows: he singled out an excellent piece of music, in the Italian style; but here and there he either altered or mutilated the piece, in such a manner, however, that no one but a real judge could detect the alterations. Carolan bestowed the deepest attention on the performer while he was playing it, not knowing that it was intended as a trial of his skill, and that the critical moment was at hand which was to determine his reputation for ever. He declared it to be an excellent piece of music; but, to the astonishment of all present, said, very humourously, in his own language, "*Ta se air chois air bucaighe;*" that is, "Here and there it limps and stumbles." He was requested to rectify the errors, which he accordingly did. In this state the piece was sent from Connaught to Dublin; and the Italian no sooner saw the amendment, than he pronounced Carolan to be a true musical genius.

Another anecdote of the same kind is also recorded of him. In the beginning of the last century, Lord Mayo brought from Dublin a celebrated Italian performer, to spend some time with him at his seat in the country. Carolan, who at that time was on a visit at his lordship's, found himself greatly neglected, and complained of it one day in the presence of the foreigner. "When you play in as masterly a manner as he does," replied his lordship, "you shall not be overlooked." Carolan wagered with the musician, who is said to have been the celebrated Geminiani, that though he was a total stranger to Italian music, yet he would follow him in any piece he played; and that he himself would play a voluntary in which the Italian could not follow him. The proposal was acceded to; and Carolan was victorious.

But Carolan's muse was not always employed in extolling the great, in praising beauty, or in heightening the mirth of a convivial hour; it was sometimes devoted to the service of his God. He has frequently assisted with his voice and his harp at the elevation of the Host; and has composed several pieces of church music which are deemed excellent. "On Easter day," says a person who resided during his life-time in that part of the country, "I heard him play a piece of his sacred music at mass; he called it *Gloria in excelsis*; and he sung that hymn in Irish as he played. At the Lord's prayer he stopped, and after the priest ended it he sang again, and played a piece which he denominated the *Resurrection*. The enthusiasm of his devotion affected the whole congregation. This enthusiasm was very much encreased by an idea he conceived, that he was inspired during the composition of these devotional pieces.

The period was now approaching when Carolan's feelings were to receive a violent shock. In the year 1733, the wife of his bosom was torn from him by the hand of death. This melancholy event threw a gloom over his mind, that was never after entirely dissipated. As soon as the trans-

ports of his grief had a little subsided, he composed a monody to her memory, now known by the name of *Mary M'Guire.*

Carolan did not long continue in this vale of sorrow after the death of his beloved wife. While on a visit at the house of a Mrs. M'Dermott, of Alderford, in the county of Roscommon, he died, in March 1738, in the 68th year of his age. He was interred in the parish church of Kilronan, in the diocese of Ardagh; but no one memorial exists of the spot in which he was laid. His grave was, and perhaps still is known to a few of his admirers, and some of the neighbouring peasants; and his skull was long distinguished from those of others which were promiscuously scattered through the churchyard, by a perforation in the forehead, through which a small piece of ribbon is drawn.

He had seven children by his wife, six daughters and one son. His son, who had studied music, went to London, where he taught the Irish harp; before his departure, he published, in the year 1747, a collection of his father's music, omitting, through mercenary motives, some of his best pieces. It was re-published in Dublin, by John Lee, in 1780.

It is much to be wished that a complete collection of the musical compositions of this interesting character had been given to the public. Many, it is to be feared, are now irrecoverably lost. Many others are in danger of experiencing the same fate, unless preserved by the national spirit, which, after being so long curbed and repressed, is now appearing to revive. To this wish might be also added another, of having a more complete and authentic history of his life than can at present be collected from the imperfect, and sometimes contradictory accounts that have been handed down mostly by oral tradition.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Receipt for Wyat's Plaster.

TAKE of coarse sharp sand, the particles of which are about one twentieth of an inch diameter, and another parcel whose particles are not more than one thirtieth of an inch. When each parcel is well cleansed from all impurities by washing, let it be dryed either in the sun, or on a clean iron plate set in a convenient furnace, in a sand heat.

Let lime be chosen which heats most in slacking, and slakes the quickest when duly watered, which is the freshest made, and closest kept, which dissolves in distilled vinegar with the least effervescence, and leaves the smallest residue indissoluble, and in this residue the smallest quantity of gypsum or martial matter; let the lime thus chosen to the quantity of 14lb. be sifted through a very fine wire sieve, the finer it is the better; let the lime be slaked by plunging it in a butt filled with soft water, and raising it out quickly and suffering it to heat and fume, and repeating this plunging and raising alternately, and agitating the lime until it be made to pass through the sieve into the water, and let the lime, which does not easily pass through the sieve, be rejected, and let fresh portions of the lime be thus used, until as many ounces of lime have passed through the sieve, as there are quarts of water in the butt. Let the water thus impregnated stand in a butt closely covered until it becomes clear, and through wooden cocks placed at different heights in the butt, let the clear liquor be drawn off as fast, and as low as the lime subsides, for use. This liquor, called the cementing liquor, is the better, the purer the water is from saline matter. Let fifty-six pounds of the aforesaid chosen lime be slaked by gradually sprinkling on it, and especially the unslaked pieces, the cementing liquor in a close clean place. Let the slaked part be immediately sifted through the fine wire sieve; let the lime which passes be used instantly or kept in air-tight vessels, and let the part of the lime which does not pass through the sieve, be rejected. This finer, richer part of the lime which passes through the

sieve is called purified lime. Let bone ashes be prepared in the usual manner by grinding the whitest burnt bones, but let it be sifted to be much finer than the bone ash commonly sold for making Cupels.—The most eligible materials for making the Cement being thus prepared, take fifty-six pounds of the coarse sand and forty-two of the fine sand, mix them on a large plank placed horizontally: then spread the sand so that it may stand to the height of six inches with a flat surface on the plank, wet it with the cementing liquor, and let any superfluous quantity of the liquor which the sand in the condition described cannot retain flow away off the plank. To the wetted sand add fourteen pounds of the purified lime in successive proportions, mixing and beating them up together in the mean time with the instruments generally used in making Mortar, then add 14 pounds of the bone ash in successive portions mixing and beating all together, the quicker and the more perfectly these materials are mixed and beaten together, and sooner the Cement thus formed is used, the better it will be. This is called the coarse grained, water cement, which is to be applied in building, pointing, plaistering, stuccoing, or other work, as mortar and stucco now are, with this difference, that as this Cement is shorter than mortar or common stucco, and dries sooner, it ought to be worked expeditiously in all cases, and in stuccoing it ought to be laid on by sliding the trowel forward on it ; that the materials used along with this cement in building, or the ground on which it is laid in stuccoing, ought to be well wetted with the cementing liquor in the instant of laying on the cement; and that the cementing liquor is to be used when it is necessary to moisten the cement, or when a liquid is required to facilitate the floating of the cement. When such cement is required to be of a finer texture, take ninety-eight pounds of the finer sand, wet it with the cementing liquid, and mix it with the purified lime and bone ashes in the proportion above described, with this difference only, that fifteen pounds of lime or thereabouts are to be used instead of 14, this fine grained cement is to be used in giving the last coating or finish to any work intended to imitate the finer grained stones or stucco, but it may be applied as the foregoing, and in the same manner. When for any purpose such a cement is required coarser and cheaper ; of coarse sand take 56*lb*, of fine sand 14, of lime 14, of bone ash 14, mix and use them in the manner before described : when the cement is required to be white, use sand and the whitest part of the bone, and if grey, grey sand and half burnt bones, and if for other colours vitreous or metallic powders.

As the efficacy of Mr. Wyat's plaster has been fully proved in resisting all effects of the weather for a greater length of time than any other with which the public is acquainted, we have thought it may be useful to make it more generally known ; and as the extensive circulation of the Belfast Monthly Magazine will give our friends an opportunity of guarding their houses from all effects of the weather, we have thought it right to publish it in order that they may try the experiment.

Kali Purum (Potash) an efficacious remedy for the bite of a Mad-dog.

In the debate on the dog tax, in 1796, it was stated in the House of Commons, that forty cases of hydrophobia had occurred in the Manchester infirmary within a fortnight. This was not correct: but by a publication of Mr. Simmons, surgeon of the infirmary, it appears, that there were at that time, a considerable number, probably upwards of forty, who applied at the infirmary on having been bitten by mad dogs; nine such patients having applied in the course of one morning; but that they all escaped the disease, simply by the application of the Kali Purum to the wounded parts. Mr. Simmons observes that, for twenty years he has had experience of the success attending the application of this caustic, in wounds inflicted by the bite of mad animals, or of animals supposed to be mad; and in no one instance had hydrophobia followed, after the caustic had been applied. It is said to have been used in the Manchester infirmary for near fifty years, with

Sir William considers the common ingredients of health and long life (where births are not impaired by any derived infirmities of the race they come from) to be, great temperance, open air, easy labour, little care, simplicity of diet, rather fruits and plants than flesh, which easier corrupts; and lastly water, which preserves the radical moisture without too much encreasing the radical heat.

Speaking of the influence which anxiety has on the body—"I remember," says Sir William, "an ingenious physician, who told me, that in the fanatic times, he found most of his patients so disturbed by troubles of conscience, that he was forced to play the divine with them before he could begin the physician."

"Socrates," says Temple, "used to say, that it was pleasant to grow old with good health and a good friend; and he might have reason, if man be content to live, while he is no trouble to himself or his friends; but after that, it is hard if he be not content to die. I knew and esteemed a person abroad, who used to say, a man must be a mean wretch who desired to live after three-score years old. But so much no doubt is certain, that in life as in wine, he that would drink it good, must not draw it to the dregs."

A CURIOUS MISTAKE OF PLUTARCH.

This ingenious Bœotian mistook the name of LEVI among the Jews for Λεῦι one of the bacchanalian cries, and accordingly supposed that they worshipped Bacchus. It is rather matter of surprize that the word ϕλελεῦ which was used on the same festival occasions, and which also signifies Hallelujah, did not occur to him as an additional reason for this strange surmise.

FORCE OF PREJUDICE.

Dr. Darwin, in his Zoonomia, endeavours to prove that there is no such thing as instinct, but that the faculty so named in the brute creation can be explained on the principles of imitation. He read the chapter in which this is attempted to be proved to a lady, who was in the habit of rearing canary-birds. She combated his opinion, and in the course of the argument observed to him, that the pair of birds which they then saw building their nest in the cage were a male and a female, who had been hatched and reared in that very cage, and had not been in existence when the mossy cradle in which they received existence had been fabricated. She asked him, how, on his principle of imitation, he could account for the nest he then saw building, being constructed, even to the precise disposal of every hair and shred of wool, upon the model of that in which the pair were born, and of which every other canary bird's nest is constructed, where the proper materials are furnished. That of the pye-finch, added she, is of a much compacter form, warmer and more comfortable. Pull one of them to pieces for its materials; place another before these canary birds as a pattern, and see if they will make the slightest efforts to imitate the model. On the contrary, the result of their labours will be exactly the slovenly little mansion of their race, the same with that built by their parents before they themselves were hatched. The Doctor could not do away the force of that single fact, with which his system was incompatible. Yet he maintained that system with philosophic steadiness, though experience brought conviction from a thousand sources.

DUTY OF A REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. Curwen in his address to the Electors of Carlisle in 1806, thus describes a faithful representative; "He entertains a constitutional jealousy of the executive government, his eye is steadily fixed upon ministers, and his ear turned to the people."

LINES WRITTEN SOME YEARS AGO, ON THE WAINSCOTTING OF AN INN IN NEWRY.

For lending, and spending, and giving,
This world's a very good world to live in,
But for begging, or borrowing, or holding one's own,
'Tis the very worst world, that ever was known.

ANCIENT IRISH DANCE.

When James the 2nd of England landed at Kinsale, his friends, who waited his arrival on the sea-shore, received him with the *Rinceadh fada*, the figure and execution of which delighted him exceedingly. This was the figure. Three persons abreast,

uniform success. It may be applied either alone, or jointly with other means; and not only in superficial, but in deep wounds, taking care to induce a slough proportioned to the depth and extent of the wound, so as to leave no doubt of having penetrated to the very bottom. This is extracted from Dr. Ferrier's Medical Histories and reflections: vol. iii. p. 220.

A cheap and efficacious process of destroying contagious matter, with which walls are penetrated, and as it were impregnated, lately discovered in France.

It consists of a coating, or varnish, of which quick-lime, glue, milk and oil are the principal ingredients, and which forms a speedy and complete coating of the walls, covering all the porosities, and destroying all the adhesive contagious matter, or mephitism. The use of this white-washing, or varnish plaster, ought certainly to be put to immediate trial, in any hospital, infirmary, or prison, workshop, or factory, which is in danger from infectious matter settling upon the walls. The name of the discoverer is Cadet de Vaux, and the measure is supported by the authority of the two most eminent French chemists, Fourcroy and Deycaux.

Might not a wash of this kind for the walls of the habitations of the poor, and also a soap made of cheap material for domestic use, be a proper way of expending a part of the large sums subscribed for Fever Hospitals?

New Method of detecting Arsenic.

Mr. Joseph Hume has discovered a new method of detecting this deleterious mineral. The test he proposes as a substitute for those already used, appears to be more efficacious, as it produces a more copious precipitate from a given quantity of that substance. It is composed in the following manner. Let one grain of white oxyde of arsenic and the same quantity of carbonate of soda, be dissolved by boiling in ten or twelve ounces of distilled water, which ought to be done in a glass vessel: to this last let a small quantity of the nitrate of silver be added, and a bright yellow precipitate will instantly appear. This is a more decisive test than sulphate of copper, which forms Scheele's-green (arseniate of copper) and though the process answers very well with potash, or lime-water, yet Mr. Hume is inclined to prefer the common subcarbonate of soda.

DETATCHED ANECDOTES.

METASTASIO.

THE following beautiful passages are in an opera of that elegant Italian dramatist, Metastasio, which is entitled "La Clemenza di Tito." Voltaire, quotes them, with high praise, in the critical preface to his own Semiramis.

The first is where Titus addresses Sextus, who had rebelled against him, but whom the emperor had honoured with his warmest friendship.

Siam soli, il his sovrano
Non é presente; apri il tuo core a Tito,
Confidi ti all' amico: io ti prometto
*Ch' Augusto no'l saprà.**

* We are alone, your sovereign is not present: open your heart to Titus, trust your *friend:* I promise you that the *emperor* shall not know it.

The second is no less noble,

Il torre altrui la vita
E' facolta commune
Al piu vil della terre; il darto ë solo
*De numi e de regnanti**.

The latter thought may be traced a little in the Latin verse,

Solo Deo æquat clementia nobis.

SIR WM. TEMPLE.

Here are some excellent observations of Sir William Temple, who was esteemed the most elegant writer of his day, but whose writings are now very little known.

His three wishes were, health, peace, and fair weather.

* The vilest wretch on earth may rob another of life: to give it, is the privilege of kings and Gods alone.

When lo a form before mine eyes
Disgraced with many a bloody scar,
Appear'd and cried, "Maria rise,
And wipe away that streaming tear."

No phantom he of wanton air,
As thought first fill'd me all with fears,
But smiling sweet, he said "my fair,
Forget thy grief, and all thy tears."

Ah! no, ungrateful would I be,
So to forget what did me cheer,
And when oppress'd with grief, mine eye
I fill'd with many a friendly tear.

When grief again does fill my breast,
And waste me all with pining care,
The joy of grief with me shall rest,
In many a balmy, tender tear.

FLORETTA.

ON THE DEATH OF

FRANCIS WALLACE BURNS,

WHO DIED WHEN HE WAS ON THE POINT OF EMBARKING FOR THE EAST INDIES, SOME TIME AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, THE CELEBRATED ROBERT BURNS.

"WALLACE! a name to Scotia dear,
As long as Scotia's hills shall stand,
My boy the gallant name shall bear,
My boy shall love his native land.

"The generous swell, the tender throe
Shall urge his heart to honest fame,
Whilst in his veins no blood shall flow
Unworthy of this honour'd name.

"His little bosom rising high,
An independent mind displays,
The mien erect, the sparkling eye,
Invite the hope of future days."*

All fondly thus the father cries,
While round his knees his darling clung,
But lowly now that father lies,
And silence seals his tuneful tongue.

Yet fame and fortune promise fair,
Could they a parent's loss restore;
The gallant boy becomes their care,
They point to India's distant shore.

Far from his widow'd mother's eyes,
Say must he tempt the dangerous main?
Or faint beneath the burning skies,
Nor to a Mother's ear complain?

The gifts which fame and fortune bring,
Will virtue's smile these gifts approve?
Will conscience add no secret sting,
Which wealth and power can ne'er remove?

But pitying Heaven the trial spares,
While youth and innocence combine....
Behold the guardian Angel bears
The unsullied soul to realms divine.

M. L.

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* See letters No. 83 and 91 from R. Burns to Mrs. Dunlop.

TO THREE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.

A FRAGMENT.

SWEET Innocents! yes, when I gaze
On those young smiling eyes, and stroke those cheeks
Like velvet soft, and kiss those little hands,
Fair, as the lily fair, and when I hear
Your merry mimic prattlings, and behold
Your sports so cheap, so harmless, yet so gay,
Oh! then, I something feel within my breast,
Of what thy parents feel, when fondling you,
They call you lambs, their little playful lambs,
Unutterably blest;—then, too, I feel
What felt that artist,* who divinely sketch'd
Three lovely children, adding to the group
A cherub's cheek, as tho' he meant to say,
Earth has not such a group. Sweet Innocents!
Yes, frolic still, like the young lambs, still sport,
To antic plays and pleasures only alive,
Thoughtless of future evil. As for me,
Why should reflection in its busy mood
Disturb these feelings? Why with some sad perhaps,
Muse on a distant day, when pining grief
To raptures may succeed; when racking pain
May so distract you, that you'll pray for death
To grant a long'd dismission; when, at length,
You, who now gamesome, fill your parents' breast
With transport, may with your dying breath bequeath
A heart-ache, which no time shall ever cure?
Why should I muse thus sadly? Hence, vile thought;
Rather let fancy point to future days,
When your fond parents' hopes and joys shall rise
Still higher, blessing you when they shall see
Their dearest little ones advanc'd in years,
And every year something more lovely added
To what before was lovely: let it point
To days more distant, when those young blue eyes,
When those fair cheeks, and those soft

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* Alluding to a fine painting by Rubens.

each holding the end of a white handkerchief, first moved forward a few paces to slow music, the rest of the dancers followed two and two, a white handkerchief between each couple. Then the dance began. The music suddenly changing to quick time, the dancers passed with a brisk step round the handkerchiefs of the three in front, wheeled round in semi-circles, formed a variety of pleasing animating evolutions, interspersed at intervals with *entre-chants*, or cuts, united, fell again into their original places behind, and ceased.

DUKE OF BEDFORD.

The Duke of Bedford, who had been regent of France during the reign of Henry VI. after experiencing great vicissitudes of success, and seeing the English affairs gradually declining in that kingdom, died of grief and vexation at Rouen. A few years afterwards, when Charles, the legitimate king of France, received his authority, he was advised by some of his courtiers, to demolish the monument of black marble which had been raised over the body of that hero, but he declined such a mean revenge, nobly saying, "Let him repose in peace, and be thankful that he does repose: were he awake, he would make the stoutest among us tremble."

THE MUSES DISHONOURED.

One of the old English historians tells of a nobleman, who finding his convivial pleasures interrupted by the supplications of two itinerant poets, from a neighbouring university, ordered his servants to place them in two buckets, and to immerse them by turns in a well, until they had composed a poem on their deplorable situation. The company, it is added, enjoyed the jest extremely.

LOUIS XI.

Lewis XI. of France was one of the greatest monsters ever recorded by the page of history. Murder was with him a trifling crime; and Tristran d'Hermite, his great provost, a servant worthy of such a master, well seconded the pitiless monarch. One day the king observing at his levee an officer against whom he had conceived some dislike, made a private sign to Tristran, who, apt at his duty, enticed the person whom he imagined to be the devoted object of his royal master's anger, into the palace yard, thrust him into a sack, and threw him into the Seine. Unluckily he had mistaken a well fed monk who stood in the same line with the officer, for his devoted victim. Next day Lewis having been told that the man whom he hated had been seen alive, charged Tristran with it. "Your majesty must mistake," replied he, "the monk must be near Roan by this time." "What monk?" "Him that your majesty pointed at." "Pasque Dieu," exclaimed the humane prince, "you have drowned me the best priest in France. Well! we must have a dozen masses said for his soul. It was a sad mistake of yours. I meant that dog of a captain, not the poor monk."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE TEAR.

WHEN Henry to the battle went,
And left us in despair,
To me a tender sigh he lent,
I dropt a silent tear.

Adieu! he cry'd, and softly prest
Me to the heart I held so dear,
Now far from me my love did rest,
And I found comfort in a tear.

And oft in evening's pensive hour
I wandered forth my heart to cheer;
Oh! sweetest balm, I'll thee adore,
My heart thou eas'dst, thou cooling tear!

But when I heard in battle fell
The youth that to me was so dear,
Ah! who could then my sorrows tell,
How oft I've dropt the silent tear?

And oh! thou eas'dst my bursting breast;
Thou calm'dst my grief and anguish drear,
Thou sooth'dst my troubled soul to rest
Thou life—thou soul reviving tear!

Still full of woe I sat me down,
And soon my frame was chill'd with fear,
I heard a voice, 'twas Henry's own;
He said, "Maria, dry that tear."

pretty hands
Shall have new powers; when what but pleases now,
Shall all beholders charm: Oh! then may you
Be greatly good, as you are pretty now;
Each find a lover, worthy of loving you,
Worthy of being lov'd; so may you live
Then happy, as you now are innocent.

London. D.

THE CHRISTIAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE.

THE Christian, while life's journey he pursues,
A stranger and a wanderer appears,
But still in prospect as the end he views,
It serves to dissipate his anxious fears,
The glorious end its beauties doth display,
And to the faithful traveller smooths the weary way.

Though storms, perhaps, assault him on his road,
Internal peace will break their utmost force,
His eye once fix'd on Heaven's secure abode,
No tempest can arrest him on his course;
Steady, by faith's unerring light he steers
His devious course along this vale of tears.

Even from afflictions he finds cause for joy,
They urge him forward, and his loiterings chide,
They tend self-love's allurements to destroy,
Which oft the soul from Jesus would divide;
If he has labours, they are "those of "love,"
And every grief is sunk in hopes of joys above.

When storms disperse, and skies no longer lower,
Our stedfast traveller does not slack his speed;—
Prosperity has not the magic power
To make him deviate in word or deed;
He knows his master's business must be done,
By watchfulness and care the heavenly prize is won.

Yet still he does not churlishly refuse
To taste the sweets presented as he goes,
But careful not the blessings to abuse,
He grateful thanks the hand which good bestows;
Enjoys the comforts Heaven to him has lent,
Nor, if they are refused, gives way to discontent.

With an observing eye he looks around,
And what is beautiful or grand admires,
If aught or strange or wonderful is found
Into its nature curiously inquires;
His master's wonder-working hand he sees,
In earth, sea, air, in herbs, and flowers, and trees.

His fellow-travellers with love he greets,
Enjoys their pleasures, and their sorrow shares.
If any wandering from the path he meets,
He aids with counsel, and they have his prayers;
He helps the helpless, sooths the sinking soul,
And firm resisting stands 'gainst vice's dire controul.

His Master's great example still he makes
The rule of life; and where weak nature fail,
The holy spirit's powerful aid he takes
Against those enemies who oft assail;
In vain the world its tempting baits display,
His shield of faith turns Satan's fiery darts away.

At length we see him at life's utmost bound,
His journey over, and the prize in view,
Nor death nor hell can his firm soul confound,
He finds his Saviour's promise just and true;
Jesus for him disarms the horrid king,
"Where is thy victory, grave?—death where thy sting?"

LYDIA.

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

ON PROPERTIUS.

I HOPE that the following account of Propertius will not be considered a presumptuous attempt to overthrow the character of a well known poet, but rather as an honest endeavour to justly appreciate a man, whose works have in my opinion been strangely overvalued. A numerous class of beings called commentators, whose usefulness every

reader of ancient literature is bound to acknowledge, but who are by no means to be esteemed as guides in matters of taste, have heaped praises on this elegiac poet without measure, and without discrimination. Indeed Propertius has some claim on their gratitude: for his perpetual allusions to Greek fable, and his frequent obscenities have furnished them with ample room to display their learning to advantage: and such an ostentatious and immense display have some of them made, that in their editions the poet's text is scarce discernible amid the mass of notes with which it is surrounded. Minima est pars ipsa puella sui.....or to borrow a simile of Swift, Propertius enveloped in his commentary, looks like a mouse under a canopy of state. After reading his poems, I never could discover that he possessed one requisite for elegiac poetry. He has neither ease, nor tenderness, nor simplicity, nor perspicuity. Oh! but say some critics, he had a genius too high for amatory poetry; he should have written epics; as if a writer who has none of the above-mentioned excellencies was fit to write epic, or any poetry at all. It would be waste of time to ask these criticks, does Homer or Virgil want ease or tenderness, or simplicity, or perspicuity, or rather are not these their chief beauties. And yet this writer, thus stiff, thus turgid, thus affectedly learned, is to be cried up as the chief of the Latin elegiac poets. The only merit he possesses is rather the merit of his age than his own, I mean the correctness of his versification: as in the present day every boy and girl can string together a dozen couplets without any effort. In fact, Propertius appears to me of about equal rank with the Sheffields and Halifaxes of English poetry, and his frigid verses deserve no other notice from the ladies, except to cool their irons or to curl their hair.

I was a good deal amused a few days ago, at a sort of compliment paid to this writer, by a French poet, M. Berenger. He is with great liberality praising his contemporaries, and wishing to exalt two writers of elegies, he says,

Cubières et Berlin, émules de Properce,
Font sourire l'amour a cet heureux commerce.

Here according to the laudable custom of Boileau, the poet having no doubt written the second line first, must have been considerably puzzled to find an amatory poet whose name would rhyme to "commerce:" Catulle, and Tibulle, were perfectly intractable, and so nothing remained but to put down "Properce." I know nothing either of Cubières or Berlin, but I think I may venture to assert that a gallant Frenchman would never insult his mistress with such pedantic roundelays as Propertius wrote.

Dr. Jortin, who was an elegant critic himself, and composed excellent Latin verse, says of Propertius, that he wrote in a desultory manner, and that in his poems there is sometimes no connection to be found.

Marullus, who has written a catalogue in verse, of the Latin poets, has omitted Propertius, though it must be confessed that no great deference is due to his taste, as he omitted also the names of Plautus and Ovid, for which he has received a most severe censure from the sensible Gravina.

As to the idea of Propertius writing an Epic, I cannot help wishing that he had attempted a poem of that superior nature. It would have been some consolation for the advocates of modern genius to be able to say that the ancients had a Blackmore as well as the moderns, and that a Roman noble could write as sillily as an English knight. But unfortunately the advice of Mecænas* was not taken, and Propertius continued to write elegies till the venerable age of 75.

We cannot but lament while such a tender elegant writer as Sappho among the Greeks, and Catullus among the Latins have come down to posterity imperfect, and mutilated that the contemptible mediocrity of Propertius should appear before us nearly

* It is said that Mecænas recommended to Propertius to write an Epic, as more suitable to his genius. We can hardly think that the man who had taste enough to admire Virgil and Horace, could have been serious in this advice. No doubt it was "une mauvaise plaisanterie."

entire. Who would not for one ode of Sappho, for one carmen of Catullus, give up all the pedantry and dulness of this darling of the commentators? But alas, it is the fate of good books, as of good men, frequently to die early, and to be soon forgotten. Time, that has destroyed all the graces of Menander, has preserved, unhurt, all the obscenities and abominations of Petronius.

As some of your readers perhaps, may think that I have asserted rather than proved the faults of Propertius, I will, if you think proper, in future communications give some quotations from this poet, and arrange them under the several heads of pedantry, dullness, obscenity, and turgidity, &c. Meantime I conclude, wishing no other evil to the friends of Propertius than that they may have no relish for the beauties of Tibullus.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

MR. FR. HEGI, is engraving and publishing, at Zurich, a Collection of Costumes of the middle age. The first exhibits portraits of various persons of the 12th century; as Roger, Count of Sicily; Richard, Cœur de Lion; Elizabeth, Countess of Marche, third wife of King John.

The king of Naples, Joseph Bonaparte, had ordered a monument to be erected to the memory of Tasso, opposite to the house in which the poet was born. All his manuscripts were to be deposited in that house, with a copy of every edition of his works, and the keeping of them was to be entrusted to his nearest descendant.—Whether it has been carried into execution under his successor, we cannot say.

Desirous of prosecuting the researches at Pompeii with greater energy, he likewise ordered, that all persons possessing lands around the former openings, should relinquish them to government, who would give them in exchange demesne lands of the crown.

The celebrated Last Supper of Leonardo da Vinci, at Milan, has suffered so much from damp and other circumstances, that it will soon be totally destroyed. Bossi is taking a copy of it in oil, of the original size, from which it is afterwards to be executed in mosaic.

Mr. Sickler writes from Rome, that he has observed in the villa of Cassius, a wall of the construction termed Cyclopean, by Mr. Petit Radel, which stands upon another of the kind called *opus reticulatum*, by Vetruvius. Hence he infers that Mr. Petit Radel is possibly mistaken with respect to the antiquity of that kind of masonry.

The subterranean passage, by which the emperor went privately from the palace of the Cæsars, on Mount Cælius, to the Flavian amphitheatre, has been lately discovered. From it have been taken a number of architectural fragments, capitals, cornices, and vases, proofs of the splendour of its decorations. Some fine torses have been found, and a head of Mercury, which appears to have belonged to the statue formerly in the garden of the pope, and now in the Chiaromontin museum. Several pipes and gutters for carrying off water were met with, and twenty rooms of very small dimensions, and lighted only from the top. These are presumed to be the *fornices* mentioned so frequently by Martial, Seneca, and Juvenal.

Darwin's Zoonomia, which had already been translated into German and Italian, has lately appeared in French.

Pof. Bredow, of Helmstaedt, is busied on a new edition of the *Geographi Minores.* To those included in Hudson's collection, which will be collated with the best MSS. he means to add several others, as Dicuilus, Nicephorus, Blemmydas, Gemisthius, Pletho, Palladius, &c. It will likewise be accompanied with maps, exhibiting some ideas entertained of the globe, from Moses and Homer to the discovery of America. The professor requests the learned, particularly li-

brarians, to give him information of any unpublished manuscripts they know, of minor Greek or Latin geographers.

Professor Sue has published at Paris, an index to Sonnini's new edition of Buffon, in 124 vols. 8vo. The index occupies 3 vols.

A Mr. Baradelle has constructed a pen, which he terms capillary, capable of tracing 144 lines in the space of a French inch.

A complete edition of the geography of Abulfeda, in Arabic, with the modern Greek version, has lately been published at Vienna, by Demetrius Alexandrides, a native of Thessaly. This learned Greek, some years ago, translated Goldsmith's Grecian History, for the use of his countrymen; a second edition of which work he publised in 1807, with an additional volume, containing an Epitome of the Byzantine History, and a tract on the Arts, Sciences, Religion, Manners, and Customs of the Greeks.

Mr. Kuithan, of Westphalia, has published the first part of his "Attempt to show, that Pindar's Pythian Odes were originally Plays. To this he has added some hints on the Greek Prosody.

The "Antiplatonic System of Government," of Mr. Graevall, lately published in Prussia, is said to have made a great deal of noise.

Mr. Rabenstein, of the Royal Cabinet of Antiquities at Dresden, has published an imitation of Lippert's Collection of Pastes from Antiques. There are 3149 contained in three large folio volumes, for which he charges 50 ducats (23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) He has also copied Visconti's collection in sulphur, consisting of 1237 casts, the price of which is 18 ducats (8*l.* 8*s.*) They are said to be extremely well executed.

A collection of laws, decrees, and official letters, respecting the Protestants in France; their situation in that country from the revocation of the edict of Nantz to the present time, the organization of the Lutheran churches, with various local observations, and historical facts, has lately been published at Paris, under the title of *Manual portatif des Reformes et Protestans de l' Empire Français.*

The following curious table of the general results of trials of the strength of different people, by Regnier's dynamometer, is extracted from the late Voyage of Discovery to the South, mentioned in our last number.

Profile.	*Strength of the hand.* lbs avoird.	*Of the back.* lbs avoird.
1 Savages of van Diemen's Land	111.6	——
2 —— of New South Wales	114.2	326.4
3 Inhabitants of Timor	129.4	357.3
4 Frenchmen	152.6	487.2
5 Englishmen	157.5	524.8

This shows in a striking light the inferiority of some savages; but we could have wished to have had it extended to the natives of the Sandwich Islands, Society Islands, and many others.

Mr. Joachim le Breton, in his history of the class of fine arts of the French Institute for 1807, informs us, that the class is diligently proceeding with the Technical Dictionary of the Fine Arts.

Mr. Balthasar Soloyns, who has spent fifteen years in India, is publishing in numbers, a Description of the Hindoos, with their civil and religious customs. The plates will be engraved by himself from his own drawings taken from the life.

Dr. Moreau is publishing a new edition of Lavater, which he has endeavoured to render more useful by a better arrangement, and additional observations, from the sciences of physic and physiology. In these he has combined the substance of such remarks as have been made by la Chambre, Porta, Camper, and others, with facts since collected.

Mr. Castellan, having made a voyage to the Morea, and the islands of Zant, Cerigo, and Hydra, is publishing an account of it, with a number of plates, engraved by himself from his own drawings.

Don Francis Amoros, knowing how the class interested itself in the inquiry concerning the Cyclopean mode of building, sent Mr. le Breton, some extracts from an unpublished voyage to the island of Cyprus, made by order of his catholic majesty, with some drawings of ruins of the ancient temple of Venus at Paphos.—The blocks of these ruins have not the irregular polygonal figure that characterises the Cyclopean structures,

de la Langue Romaine, compiled from the manuscripts of the imperial library, and containing the etymology and signification of words used from the 11th to the 16th centuries, with a discourse on the origin, progress, and changes of the French tongue, in 2 vols. 8vo. is a valuable addition to the science of philology.

The Abbe Sicard, the able pupil and successor of the abbe l'Epée, has published in two thick vols. large 8vo. his theory of signs for the instruction of the deaf and dumb.

On the 22d. of August last Mr. Andreoli and Mr. Brioschi went up with a baloon at Padua. When they had ascended about 3¼ miles, Mr. B. began to feel an extraordinary palpitation of the heart, without any painful sensation in breathing. When 4½ miles high, he was overpowered with a pleasing sleep, that soon became a real lethargy. The balloon continued ascending, and when it was near 6 miles high, Mr. A. perceived himself swollen all over, and could not move his left hand. At the height of about 6¾ miles, the balloon burst with a loud explosion, began to descend rapidly with much noise, and Mr. B. awoke. It fell about 12 miles from Padua, without any injury being received by the aerial travellers.

The French minister of the home department having sent to the Institute some pyroligneous acid, prepared by Mr. Molérat, for its examination, Messrs. Fourcroy, Berthollet and Vauquelin, have made the following report, in answer to the questions accompanying it. The acetic acid obtained from wood is the same as that which constitutes the base of common vinegar, but it is more pungent, because it is not deadened by the admixture of foreign matter: it contains nothing but what is perfectly wholesome, if prepared with due care; and consequently there is no reason why it might not be sold by the name of vinegar, and used for the same purposes.

Mr. C. A. T. Goede, in his "England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland," in 5 vols. 8vo. of which a second edition was published in 1806, at Dresden, is said to have supplanted the classical work of Archenholz. A French reviewer ascribes to him only one fault, that of being too partial to the English. He visited the united kingdom, in 1802 and 1803.

Mr. T. E. Mionnet has published a third volume of his Descriptions of ancient Greek and Roman Medals, with their degree of rarity and value, intended as a catalogue to a series of upwards of twenty thousand sulphur casts from the original.

In an academical thesis at Gottingen, entitled a specimen of an edition of the Symposium of Plato, Dr. Fred. Thiersch claims for Alcæus, a poem usually ascribed to Theocritus. It is the twenty ninth in Valchenaer's edition, and occurs in Warton's at vol. i. p. 123.

Mr. Viel, of Louisiana, formerly head of the academy at Juilly, left behind him a translation of Telemachus into Latin hexameters, which some of his pupils have united to publish.

The scheme of bishop Wilkins has been pursued with some success at Vienna. A watchmaker, of the name of Degen, is reported to have ascended above the trees in the Prater, with artificial wings, taken his flight in various directions, and alighted on the ground with the ease of a bird.

Mr. Zurla, a benedictine of Venice, has published a Dissertation on the Voyages of Discovery to the north, by Nicholas Zeno, and his brother Antony. The brothers sailed from Venice in 1381; landed in Friesland, an island on the south of Iceland, governed by a prince called Zichmi; and visited Esland, Engroveland, Estotiland and Icaria. The latter we believe is the name they gave to the north east coast of America, along which they appear to have sailed.

Macbeth and Hamlet were drawing crowded houses continually in Paris, last winter, while our English audiences appear to have lost all relish for tragedy.

Messrs. Thenard and Gay-Lussac, have decomposed the boracic acid by means of the basis of alkalies. Its base is a greenish brown substance, fixed, insoluble in water, insipid, does not change vegetable blues, burns spontaneously in oxygen gas, or atmospheric air, and is converted first into a black oxide, and ultimately into

but the parallelogrammical form, that belongs to the Asiatic system according to Mr. Petit Radel.

The class of mathematical and physical sciences is subdivided. The history of the mathematical and physico-mathematical durpins for 1807 is given by Mr. Delambre, who informs us, that,

Mr. Burkhard: has proposed a new construction for the telescope. He would use a plane small mirror like Newton's, but placed perpendicularly to the axis of the large concave mirror, and at half its focal distance.

Mr. Biot asserts, from his experiments, that the aqueous vapour in the atmosphere does not alter its refractive power so as to have any effect on astronomical observations.

Mr. Messier has collected all the particulars he could of the violent thunder-storm that occurred at Paris, on the 21st of October, 1807, and the extraordinary gale of wind, that came on the next day. In his journal, which he has kept for fifty years, he finds nothing equal to them: but on the 3d. of November following there was a storm as violent, during which the church of Montivilliers was struck by lightning.

Mr. Bouvard has published corrections of the tables of Jupiter and Saturn; and Mr. Delambre has calculated afresh his tables of eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites, which will soon be published.

The second volume of the "Base of the Decimal System of Measures," has been published; and the third which is the last, is in the press.

Mr. Berthoud, a few days before his death, which happened in August, published a supplement to his treatise on timekeepers, with an account of his labours from the year 1752.

Mr. Betancourt presented to the class a model of a lock for canals on the same principle as one invented by Mr Huddleston, of Shaftsbury, in Dorsetshire, and described in Nicholson's Journal for April, 1803. We are not told, whether Mr. Betancourt claims the invention or not, but no mention is made of Mr. Huddlestone, though Nicholson's Journal is certainly not unknown to our neighbours on the continent, as articles from it are frequently translated, and inserted in their periodical works. Mr. B. however had added a mathematical discussion of the principles on which it ought to be constructed, so as to be worked with the least power.

Mr. Malen, of the engineers, has deduced the various circumstances of the propagation of light, and solved the fundamental problems of optics, from a uniform and general analysis. His theory is said to be entirely new.

The fourth part of Von Humboldt and Bonpland's Travels will contain in two 4to. vols. the astronomical observations, trigonometrical operations, and barometrical measures. Mr. von H. has thought it would be most satisfactory, to give the whole of the original observations themselves, that it may be seen what degree of confidence the results deduced from them deserve. The calculations have been made by Mr. Jabbo Oltmanns from the best tables. The magnetical observations, with an examination of them, and of those of Cook, Vancouver, and other able astronomers, by Biot, will occupy the 2d vol. As such a number of figures must be a long while printing, the latitudes and longitudes of various places, deduced from astronomical observations, have been published in a separate tract in Latin.

Mr. Thiebaut-de-Berneaud, member of the Italian Academy and several other learned societies, has published an account of the island of Elba, and other islands in the Tyrrhenian sea, in 1 vol. 8vo. with a map.

Gordon's History of Ireland has been translated into French.

Mr. Koehler has published at Petersburgh a dissertation on the monument of Queen Comosarye, wife of Parisades, which is to be followed by an account of several very ancient and curious monuments discovered in Scythia Minor, the Taurica Chersonesus, and Asiatic Sarmatia.

Professor Gail, of Paris, has published an essay on the Effect, Sense, and Power of Greek, Latin, and French terminations: also the idiomatic expressions of the Greek Language, with observations addressed to Mr. Herman.

Mr. J. B. B. Roquefort's *Glossaire*

Institute, is engaged in a great work on comparative osteology. His object is to investigate the analogies between the corresponding parts of animals with vertebræ. If any thing can elucidate the origin of organized bodies, it must probably be sought in the parts, that are constantly found more or less similar in number and situation, notwithstanding their dissimilitude in size and use, and irreconcileableness with any apparent final cause.

Mr. Duméril has treated very ably on the mechanism of respiration in fishes, in which he has pointed out some interesting singularities; on the organ of taste in fishes, which he supposes to be the pituitary membrane; and on the vital and animal functions of certain reptiles.

Several other papers on the class amphibia have been read. Mr. Cuvier has shown, that there are at least twelve very distinct species of crocodiles in the two hemispheres. He has likewise examined a few amphibia that some naturalists have considered as tadpoles, and shown them to be animals in a perfect state.

Mr. Dupuytren has demonstrated, that the action of the nerves of the lungs is indispensible in respiration.

Mr. Dupetit Thouars has pursued his researches in confirmation of his opinion, that the principle of the increase of the trunks of trees is in the buds; that the annual layers of wood are composed of the roots of the buds; and that the little medullary thread terminating each bud, performs the office of a cotyledon.

The celebrated chemist Crell, has been making experiments on one of the most important subjects in vegetation, namely, whether plants can acquire carbon, and whatever is necessary to their growth, from pure distilled water alone. These, which he has communicated to the class, appear to favour the affirmative side of the question; but we cannot pronounce them absolutely decisive.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Letter addressed to John Cartwright, esq. Chairman of the Committee, at the Crown and Anchor, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform; by the Earl of Selkirk. London, printed for Constable and co. Price, 1*s.* 1*d.*

THE Earl of Selkirk has a kind of family claim to be considered eminent in the ranks of patriotism. His father was on the popular side, and his elder brother, Lord Daer, was well known for his zeal in promoting the cause of parliamentary reform, in 1793, before the unhappy issue of the French Revolution operated as a powerful discouragement to all reform. The Earl of Selkirk himself has also generally ranked under the banners of the liberal side, but at present he appears, no doubt with virtuous intentions, to have arranged himself to a certain degree, in the opposite ranks, though as far as we are able to judge, he is very far from joining heartily, or with thorough conviction in the cause of the Anti-reformers. They, however, seem proud of his accession to them, and are loud in their praises of his letter. In proportion as they are solicitous to avail themselves of the sanction of his name, so ought the friends of reform to be willing to attend to him when he assigns the moving causes for the change in his political conduct.

This letter is in answer to one he received, inviting him to act as steward at the late meeting of the friends to parliamentary reform. He thus pourtrays his former sentiments on this subject, and candidly admits the changes which have since taken place.

"To parliamentary reform my father and brother were, as you well know, zealous friends; and all my own early prepossessions were in favour of such a measure. I saw, with abhorrence, the ascendancy which unprincipled and worthless characters often acquired through the influence of corruption. I lamented the public advantages so often sacrificed to the interest of individuals. I was struck with the glaring manner in which the practice of our Constitution appeared to deviate from its theory; and I flattered myself that if the representation of the people were

boracic acid. They gave it the name of *bore*.

At the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, August the 6th, 1807, Mr. Burja read a paper on the resistance of the air; Mr. Klein, one on the advantages and disadvantages of national prejudices; and Mr. Von Humboldt a fragment on the great cataracts of the river Oronoko. The two prize subjects for 1810, are:

"To explain with more precision than has hitherto been done the object of the council of the Amphictyons, the extent of its powers and means, and it's influence on the politics of Greece."

"A complete theory of the hydraulic ram, having regard to the adhesion of water." A description of this machine is given in Somini's Journal for Feb. 1806; and also in Nicholson's Journal, vol. xiv. p. 98, with remarks by the learned editor.

The prize for each is 50 *duc.* (23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and the papers must arrive before the 1st of May.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen, has proposed the four following prize subjects for the present year.

"To explain the construction and theory of a hydraulic tube, by which objects at the bottom of the sea may be perceived distinctly."

"What knowledge of the state of the atmosphere in its most elevated regions, has been, or may be gained by aerostatic voyages?"

"A comparison of the best and latest accounts we have of the religious notions of different Indian or Tartarian nations, and their opinions respecting the origin and most ancient state of the gods and of the world, with the ideas entertained by our ancestors on the same subjects."

"Has the eclective philosophy no longer any thing that can render it justly commendable; and from these premises may the philosophers, who were once the ornament of the Alexandrian, or new Platonic school, be termed eclectics, or rather, as some think, syncretics?"

The prize is a gold medal of the value of 50 *duc.* (20*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) and the papers, which may be written in Latin, French, English, German or Danish, are to be sent before the end of the present year, to Prof. Bugge, secretary of the Academy at Copenhagen.

The Royal society of sciences at Gottingen, in 1807, awarded a prize to Mr. Fulda, of Tubingen, for an answer to the following important question: "What influence have taxes on the morals and industry of a nation?"

HISTORY OF THE MATHEMATICAL CLASS OF THE INSTITUTE.

Continued from our last Number.

Mr. Poisson has investigated the theory of sound, and shown, that, whether direct or reflected, it is always propagated by spherical undulations with equal velocity in every direction; but that the vibrations of particles situate at the same instant in the sonorous wave are made with unequal rapidity, according to a law dependant on the nature of the primary impulse; and consequently, that the intensity of the sound, which depends on the velocity of these vibrations, is hence found to be different in different parts of the sonorous wave. He farther observes, that the causes assigned by Newton and other mathematicians, for the observed velocity of sound being superior to that which calculation gives, are inadequate. M. Laplace ascribes this acceleration of sound to the change of temperature, which the particles of air undergo in their condensation and dilatation.

The history of the physical division of the class is given by Mr. Cuvier.

Two prizes have been awarded by the class at different periods to dissertations on the hybernation of animals. Professor Pruneile of Montpellier has since sent a valuable paper on the same subject; but notwithstanding these, and the researches of Spallanzani, Mangini, and Carlisle, to which the class thinks its questions may have given occasion, we are still unacquainted with the causes, that dispose certain animals to sleep through the winter, and enable them to endure such a temporary suspension of their functions.

Mr. Geffrey St. Hilaire, professor at the museum of natural History, and successor of Mr. Brouffonet in the

put upon a proper footing, these abuses would be eradicated; that if the representation were equalized—the right of suffrage extended—the duration of parliament shortened—bribery could scarcely be applied with effect; that the influence of corruption being thus removed, the real friends of the country would obtain the preference naturally due to worth and talents; and that, the House of Commons being so composed, every abuse would speedily be checked or thoroughly reformed.

"Of the correctness of this practical conclusion, I have since seen reason to doubt—not that my feelings of abhorrence and contempt for corruption and venality have undergone any change; in these sentiments I do not fall short of those honoured relatives, with whose opinions you were well acquainted; but I have had an opportunity, which they never had, of seeing the practical applications of those principles from which we expected consequences so beneficial.—With grief and mortification I perceive that no such advantages had resulted, as from theory I had been led to anticipate.

"I allude to the observations, which I had occasion to make in the United States of America, where a system of representation is established, approaching as nearly as perhaps is practicable to the theoretical perfection at which you aim; and where that system is combined with a general diffusion of property, of itself calculated to check, in a great degree, the force of corruption. A very short acquaintance with the legislative proceedings of America may afford conviction, that universal suffrage and frequency of election, prove no bar to the misconduct of representatives; and that a political adventurer, raised to power by popular favour, is fully as likely to abuse that power, as is the purchaser of a rotten borough.

"There is no ground for the idea, that in that country public affairs are managed with a higher regard to the public welfare than in our own. The Parliament of England, with all its corruptions, cannot be accused of proceedings approaching, in disgrace, to the infamous and bare-faced jobs, which have been transacted in many of the legislatures of America. It is evident to the most careless observation, that the state of public morals is there worse than in England—that political integrity is less respected—that corrupt motives have not the same degree of check from feelings of honour as they have among Englishmen. To sum up all, there is no room for comparison between the two countries in that great test of a good government, the administration of justice."

It is far from our inclination to be the unqualified panegyrists of the American constitution, and far less to be the defenders of the American character throughout; in the latter we are sensible of many defects, and are afraid that political and commercial honour is at a low ebb in that country: but, do these defects arise from their constitution? We think not. Probably these defects would be still more glaring under a worse system of government. Neither do we think that parliamentary reform would operate as a charm, to remove vice in these countries, but some of the facilities to commit vice at the expense of the public would be removed, and to borrow a simile from agriculture, by frequently cutting the weeds in a rank soil, the roots in time might be rotted, while others might at once be eradicated by other operations. To deduce reasons against parliamentary reform, because the American states-men are not free from faults, or because the representatives of rotten boroughs may chance to be honest men, is, we think, not fair reasoning, and if admitted, would tend to the deterioration, or lowering of virtuous principle. All human institutions are necessarily subject to errors in the management, but because we cannot attain to perfection, must all attempts to remove flagrant abuses, be laid aside as visionary and hopeless?

The Earl of Selkirk admits, "In our Government, chance has blended together these opposite vices, in such a manner to correct each other's violence, and produce a compound, far indeed from perfect, but less noxious than if either of these principles had an unqualified predominance." For our part we are not fond of the doctrine of the fortuitous concurrence of atoms, but think the constitution would be improved, by removing the deleterious ingredients of the mixture.

On the subject of parliamentary reform the Earl of Selkirk is with the opponents of that measure, but the honest principles of his heart are evinced in his remarks on corruption, and here the enemies to reform have not the honour to enrol him in their ranks. He is afraid that the attention to economical reform may be distracted by a struggle for parliamentary reform, which he says "would come at the present moment most seasonably to the aid of the anti-jacobin hypocrites, who are trembling for their ill-gotten gains," and is anxious that those who wish honestly to pursue the good of the country may not again be forced to make their option between jacobin and anti-jacobin. We give him credit for his virtuous sentiments, although we differ so materially from him, because we think that without radically amending our constitution by the reform of the popular branch, we can have no security that any provisions that may be adopted against the present prevailing and overwhelming system of corruption can be permanently effectual.—There have been many commissions to detect abuses, but we believe the detections in consequence have not compensated for the additional load laid on the people by the salaries of those commissioners. Ministers have no objection to appointing commissioners, because they thus increase their patronage, and they trust to their address to defeat any beneficial results from these inquiries. Thus the system goes on. Lord Melville is impeached, and again restored to his seat at the council board. Corruption advances with unblushing front. All temporary expedients have proved ineffectual. We confess we have great confidence in the reformation of parliament, as consolidating all other reforms, and giving permanency and effect to them. If parliament were really reformed, we would then have watchful guardians of the public purse, who would have a common interest with their constituents. He thus advances his virtuous sentiments against corruption.

"We are told, however, that a reform in parliament is a necessary preliminary to the redress of other grievances. The facts which I have already stated, may suffice to prove that this notion is not only unfounded, but the very reverse of the truth, and I consider it as a delusion peculiarly unfortunate at the present moment. The attention of the country has of late been roused to a multitude of abuses in the management of the public money, and in the distribution of public employment.—No candid man can entertain a doubt of the importance of checking, and as far as possible eradicating such abuses. They have a direct tendency to waste the national resources, to aggravate the burdens of the people, and to damp their patriotic exertions, by exciting a general belief that the nation is oppressed to serve the sinister purposes of individuals.

"The measures which are so necessary for removing these evils, may not be agreeable to those who profit by their continuance; and objections are urged, as objections always will be urged, against any innovation by which the interest of many individuals are to be affected. But reforms of this description do not necessarily involve any consequences dangerous to the country: on the contrary, the most serious perils are to be apprehended from neglecting them. To every just measure of economical reform, I am therefore a decided friend; but the constitution, as it now exists, has sufficient means for the correction of all these abuses; and if the attention of the public be not diverted from that great object, the management of the revenue may and will be reformed."

As to the existence of abuses, this respectable senator and we are agreed, though we differ as to the more effectual mode of removing them. On another point we are also agreed, that the want of success lies with the people. He remarks:

"The efforts hitherto made for that object, have had little success, because they have obtained from the public at large, but a feeble support. The importance of the object has not been sufficiently appreciated; but the nation is now alive to it. If a steady and persevering support be given to those who exert themselves

in parliament for the attainment of economical reform, the friends of that principle will multiply every day; and sooner or later, the ministry will find it impossible to hold out against the public voice."

While this apathy remains, abuses must continue. Administrations, or even parliaments will not reform themselves, unless the expression of the public will is explicitly defined, and the demand on them is loud and strong. Attempts at reformation must be abortive, unless the people do their parts. We do not recommend intemperate brawling; by violence a good cause is injured, and the cause of reform is too justly founded to need such means; but we wish to see the people more generally throw aside the present childish and imbecile dread of reform, and assert their claims with the calm dignity of men who know and duly appreciate their rights.

K.

Practical Sermons on Interesting Subjects; by the Rev. Thomas E. Higginson. Sermon 2d. 8vo. p. p. 26. Belfast, Smyth and Lyons, 1809.

THIS is the second of a series of sermons, intended to be published. On the first we have already commented, in the manner which we thought its merits deserved.*

Of the present we shall observe, in the first place, that it corresponds more with the professed intention of the author than the former; that intention being, as far as we can judge from his own words, "to deliver a system of preceptive Christianity, suitable to all sects." Its text is, "Search the Scriptures;" and its substance consists of arguments, enforcing the necessity of referring to the Bible for the principles of faith and practice, instead of depending on mere human compositions. It may therefore be looked upon as a preface or introduction to those that are to follow, and therefore, in our opinion, ought to have had the first place. Nor can we see why the reverend author chose to commence his series by a subject totally irrelevant to his main design, unless it has been sent forward as a forlorn hope, or the first detachment of grenadiers to a breach, to bear the brunt of the attack, and waste the enemies' ammunition and fire, so that the main body may effect its design unmolested. He will be much mistaken, however, if he expects to find us asleep on our post. Or, he might have sent it out as a proof of his abilities, as musicians usually give a flourish on their instruments before they commence their sonata. If such was his intention, he should have known that such preludes are always in the key note

The necessity of studying the Scriptures for Christian knowledge, instead of relying on subsequent comments and explanations, is in general well stated in the following paragraph:

"We have reason to esteem it abundant cause for gratitude, that God has in every revolution of time, and as circumstances required, raised up in his church wise and faithful ministers, so replenished with the truth of his doctrine, and so adorned with innocency of life, as to be fully fitted to enforce and explain his sacred oracles; and both by word and deed faithfully to serve him in their several offices, to the glory of his name and the edifying of his people. But the enemy of souls on his side has not been idle: ever on the watch to counteract the designs of God's spiritual government, and to introduce his tares among the excellent seed. It is to this that we have to ascribe such frequent divisions in the church of Christ; that we see men otherwise calculated for extensive usefulness, induced to become leaders of separation, and to introduce opinions which have no foundation in the divine testimony, as well as dangerous and destructive to God's people: and that many, imposed on by their insinuations, have been led to depart from the Christian ordinances, from the long established and well authenticated means of grace, and to adopt maxims and sentiments quite novel in the church of Christ. Hence it is that we see the most useful truths perverted; and doctrines, that in the beautiful simplicity of Scripture, sweetly harmonize together, and which, by their beneficial influence, tend to form the complete christian character, in humble dependence upon God, and active benevolence towards man: we see them, through the perversion of human subtlety, made apparently to

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* See vol. 2, page 218.

clash with each other, and to sanction conclusions tending to introduce divisions among men, and to countenance impiety towards God. Nor can we be fortified against this evil but by making the fountain of truth the only ground of our faith, and by a minute and careful attention to it, until we become thoroughly acquainted with the information it conveys, the doctrines it inculcates, the morality it enforces, and the motives which it holds forth to influence our conduct, and incline our determination, until we be able "rightly to divide the word of God," to observe the connection between *principles* and *practice*, and to trace, in the inspired writings themselves, the beautiful harmony that subsists between the works of faith, the patience of hope, and the labour of love." p. 41.

And the bad effects of the contrary practice are also pointed out very clearly as follows:

"But how contrary to this is the general practice? It is a question if many have ever read the Bible in their life. They begin, where they should end, with human compositions. They gather sentences of Scripture from human compilations. They are, perhaps, piously inclined in this exercise, and save themselves, as they think, much trouble by it, but it is at the hazard of accumulating much error. "What is the chaff to the wheat, saith the Lord?" It is almost impossible to have an unprejudiced mind in this way of acting. It is almost impossible to escape from becoming perfect bigots, and is the readiest way to arrive at that reprobate mind, that undiscerning and injudicious state of intellect, as perhaps to think ourselves *serving God* when hurling anathemas against his children." p. 43.

Indeed the necessity of such practice cannot be too strongly impressed, and the futility of all other means of acquiring such knowledge may be best judged of by considering, that while the book itself which contains the principles of our faith and practice, is but a single volume of small size, the comments on it are so numerous and bulky, that were it possible to have them all brought together, they would surpass the largest library ever collected; and were they to meet a similar fate with those of the celebrated Alexandrian library, the infidels would have required no other fire for their baths to the present day.

Mr. H. gives three motives to inforce this practice. The first, that *the Scriptures are the word of God*; the second, that *they only can be esteemed perfect truth*; and the third, that *they are the most sublime and useful of all studies*. The second of these is included in the first, and the author seems to think it sufficient to illustrate each, without attempting any demonstration. If by *principle* he means *axiom*, he is right. But in supposing the first of them self-evident, he differs from most others who have treated the subject. Volumes have been written to prove this proposition, which is indeed the great point at issue between the believers in natural and revealed religion. The third motive is more fully dwelt upon; yet the remarks on it terminate in a singular manner: "We may say of it, as the queen of Sheba said of the wisdom of Solomon, *the half is not told*." The sermon terminates with an exhortation to those intrusted with the sacred office to this study; an exhortation which we should have thought unnecessary, were there not too many proofs of the contrary daily presented to our view.

With respect to the style of this sermon, we confess ourselves disinclined to approve of that of familiar colloquial conversation, usual with itinerant sectaries, and which the author seems to incline to. The style should be suitable to the subject. If this be sublime, that should not be mean or feeble. Even in the pulpit a certain dignity of character should be preserved by the orator. In writings intended for the closet, as printed sermons must be, a deviation from it is inexcusable. The commencement of the sermon now before us is a striking instance of the fault to which we allude.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ, when on earth, spake as "never man spoke," and with a force of persuasion peculiar to himself. The surrounding scene gave him lessons for our instruction, and every passing occurrence furnished him with a subject for the benefit of his auditory. The birds of the air, and the beasts of the field, became under his divine direction preachers

of dependence upon God. The cruelty of Herod, and the destruction occasioned by the fall of the tower in Siloam, drew forth a call to repentance, whilst apposite passages of history, interspersed with instructive parables, afforded him occasion to evince the evil of sensuality, and to exhibit the necessity of continual watchfulness and circumspection.

"May we also be permitted to imitate so divine a preacher? to take advantage, in like manner, of passing occurrences, in order to excite your attention to things of infinite moment? Yes, the high authority to which I have adverted, will sufficiently plead my excuse for introducing the present discourse with a short, but interesting narrative taken from fact.

"You all know the metropolis of the Empire, and have heard of the celebrated observatory of Greenwich. A traveller here met with, not long since, one of the aged pensioners, his head silvered over with venerable hairs, and his front indented by many a furrow. He was observing through a telescope the buildings of the capital, when the stranger thus accosted him, "Pray, what great structure is that which rises so supereminent above all the rest, and makes so conspicuous an appearance?" "O! Sir, that is St. Paul's," immediately answered the old man. "And, pray," said the inquirer, "who is St. Paul, to whose memory they have erected so costly an edifice?" "St. Paul!" said the old man, apparently surprised at the unexpectedness of the question, "St. Paul! I always heard that that building was St. Paul's, but I really don't know who he was." "Why, here is a very extraordinary thing;" said the stranger. "Were a monument erected in your neighbourhood to a Pitt, or a Nelson, you would immediately know who, and what he was, and what he had done to occasion his being held in such high respect; yet here is one of the most stupendous monuments in the world, which has stood for ages the admiration of every traveller, one too immediately under your notice, and you do not know the man to whose honour it was erected, or why he was held in such high estimation." If any thing can add to our astonishment at this recital, it is this, the poor old man had a bible, he had a bible, and yet he was both old and ignorant."

Every reader must see the little similarity there exists between the story of the Greenwich pensioner and the parables of Christ. Such anecdotes as are useful in elucidating any passage, seem to be much better thrown into the form of a note, as has been done by this writer himself in another part of the same sermon. From the last sentence of the passage now quoted it would appear that the bible was a remedy not only against ignorance but old age—"the poor old man had a bible, he had a bible, and yet he was both *old and ignorant*."

We were sorry to be obliged to note a few faults in language in the first of these sermons; and are more so in finding the number rather augmented. The word character is always personified, as;

"Yet such are the characters *who* engross most of our attention." p. 38.

"Any extraordinary character *who* rises on *the theatre of this transitory scene*." p. 37.

We have heard of the scene of a theatre; but what is meant by *the theatre of a scene* we leave the author to explain.

In the following passage the sense is obscured by the wrong collocation of a circumstance; the latter part also is defective through the want of a verb.

"But the enemy of souls *on his side* has not been idle: *(he is)* ever on the watch to counteract the design of God's spiritual government, and to introduce his tares among the excellent seed." p. 41.

Let the following also be analyzed. We shall quote it more fully than may appear requisite, to avoid the suspicion of any unfairness in stating the defect.

"I am not condemning in the gross all human testimony as you will observe from what I have said in this very section, for how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? The very establishment of a gospel ministry, may be considered

not merely as an allowance, but as a command of God, to attend to their evidence respecting *it*." p. 45.

To what does the pronoun *it* refer? Not to the gospel ministry, for that is pluralized by the preceding pronoun *their*, not to *God*, and obviously not to his *command*: it is in fact a substitute without a principal.

As we have entered our protest against an affectation of familiarity displaying itself by the introduction of anecdote, so we would also against the same fault showing itself in the use of low expressions, which, however they may be tolerated in common conversation, are totally inadmissible in good writing. For instance; "it lies by them as a neglected book, while *trash of every kind* forces itself on our notice." p. 36.

"Who enters into the ministry *to make the most of time*." p. 54.

We shall conclude with the following hint, in hopes that it may be taken as it is given, and thus prevent the painful necessity of similar comments on the subsequent numbers of this series.

In a sermon when preached, many inaccuracies are overlooked, many faults forgiven; it is considered, particularly with respect to style and language, as the effusion of the moment, and therefore unsusceptible of the high polish, and correctness of compositions composed and revised in the closet. But in printed sermons in which the public has a right to expect these qualities, the omission of them must be attributed either to incapacity or carelessness; faults of equally great magnitude in one who presents himself uninvited before this tribunal of final jurisdiction. And Mr. H. may be assured that his sermons would have been thus scrutinized and censured, even though he was not so fortunate as to have a friend *to tell him openly of their faults.* **Q.**

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

"THERE are (we scarce can think it, but are told,)
There are to whom our satire seems too bold,
Scarce to wise Peter complaisant enough,
And something said of Chartres much too rough;
The lines are weak, another's pleased to say,
A *Quidnunc* spins a thousand such a day.
Shall we not strip the gilding off a knave,
Unplac'd, unpension'd, no man's heir or slave?
We will or perish in the gen'rous cause;
Hear this, and tremble, you who 'scape the laws,
Yes, while we live, no rich, or noble knave,
Shall walk the world in credit to his grave,
To virtue only, and her friends a friend,
The world beside may murmur, or commend."

THE principle in politics on which the Belfast Monthly Magazine set out, as described in the Prospectus, was neither to "inflame nor to lull into apathy," and such we trust is the course we have steadily pursued. We are not discouraged by the ill success which has attended the French Revolution, from wishing well to the cause of liberty, and rational reform, nor are we inclined to be led aside from our even steady course, by loading the present French Ruler with

abuse, which however merited, we do no not think it is our duty to bestow, after the fashion of a numerous herd of political writers of the present day, whose aim is to lead away from considerations of our domestic politics, and of the amelioration of which the constitution of these countries is so susceptible. We conceive that our constitution contains the principle of renovation, when it is animated by the vital energy of a people conscious of their rights, and as we consider that it has been gradually improving through preceding centuries, we cannot but cherish the hope that if the people are true to themselves, and are not duped by those, who are interested in the perpetuating of abuses, our political situation will be further amended.

The line we have hitherto adopted, we are determined to pursue, so long as we are supported by the public suffrage in our favour. We have manfully and honestly laid before the public our unbiassed sentiments on subjects connected with the general weal, and are determined to continue the same course, so long as we find that our opinions meet the concurrence of a respectable number of our readers. We shall then persevere in the arduous task of public duty, which we undertook on principle, undismayed, and supported by a conscious sense of the purity of our motives, and we never will submit to follow the impulse of misguided and interested zeal, blind to the public good, nor catch at popularity by sacrificing our principles. We can be silent: but we never will act or appear to act contrary to our convictions. We call on our readers to judge of our labours. It is their business to manifest by unequivocal proofs, how far we are entitled to their support. It is ours to perform our task, "nothing extenuating, or setting down aught in malice."

To those who fervently declaim, or fearfully whisper, or to those who are content to "ruminate unutterable things" against the politics of the Belfast Magazine, let us declare, that its crimes, its faults, or its follies rest not with *us*. Will it avert indignation or insinuation, when we acknowledge, honestly, and conscientiously, that these politics are not *ours?* They are all borrowed. True indeed it is, that use has been made of the authoritative personal pronoun "*we*," but let this be understood to imply that we merely adopt, and do not originate; that we speak not as having authority, but as following authority. Lay the blame where it ought to lye. Fall foul upon that John Locke who was himself expelled from the College of Oxford in the reign of James the 2d, and whose publications are in great danger of sharing the same fate at the present day. Abuse and vilify that Sir William Jones who was expatriated, or honourably banished to India on account of politics displayed in his dialogue between a gentleman and a farmer, illustrative of the rights of men and Britons. Let not that arch tory the Dean of St. Patrick's escape, who, for offences of the same nature, was transported to Ireland, and there confined, during his natural and political life. It is from these men we have learned, that, as the abuse of power is inseparable from its use, the ground, and basis of every just and free government is a general council of ablest men, chosen by the whole people, to consult of public affairs, from time to time, for the common good, *chosen fairly*, and *frequently renewed*. Even the toryism of Dr. Swift appears to lean more to liberty than the whiggism of the present day, when but 15 voted with Burdett for taking the state of the representation of the people into consideration on a future day: 15 members out of 600! "As to Parliaments," said that great man in Ireland, "I adored the wisdom of that gothic institution which made them annual, and I was confident our liberties could never be placed on a firm foundation until that antient law was restored to us. For *who sees not* that while such assemblies are permitted to have a long duration, there groweth up a commerce of corruption between the ministry and the deputies, wherein they both find their accounts to the manifest danger of liberty, which traffic would neither answer the design, nor expense, if Parliament met once a year."

But really the effects of the French revolution on the public mind, have been similar to those experienced by

an individual, in consequence of a violent fever. The chain of memory is broken. The earliest, the strongest, the sweetest associations of our growing manhood are burst asunder. All pleasing recollections, all natural affinities with our once beloved principles of freedom are (we hope only for a time) obliterated. There is a sort of confused recollection of the year 1782, and we find it difficult to remember such a place as Dungannon. One spectre occupies the whole mind, and the visionary fear is so exalted by irritability, that it acts with the force of real sensation. Save us from the foul Fiend—save us from Bonaparte!

It is our sincere wish to do what we can, in our little sphere, to recall the public mind to itself, and free it from that panic perturbation, which at present, clouds its powers, suspends its nobler principles of action, and turns into malignant acrimony, and mean abuse, the generous hostility worthy of men. We feel ourselves drawn by the heart-strings to the genuine principles of civil and religious liberty, too young to forget to what glorious height the Irish people were exalted in the year 1782, and too old to pay homage to the arbitrary claims of either civil or ecclesiastical domination. "Libera veritas" we should wish to be made the motto of our publication, and the ruling maxim of our lives. We too are orange men, but not of the modern tribe who adopt that appellation, and who appear to be bred in the school of the furious and fanatical James, rather than of the mild and magnanimous William. We are such orangemen as good William must have approved, hearty enemies to arbitrary power in any person, any party, or any religious persuasion, and convinced that this country, in particular, will never attain to its proper level of industry, and its just rank in the empire, and estimation in the world, until our countrymen be raised to a perfect equality of political right and station; until toleration or the enjoyment of rights by *sufferance* and *at pleasure*, be expunged from the vocabulary of the constitution; and until fellow citizens will cease (in the spirit of the times, and of the men in such times, who raised the bodies of the hostile party, many years after their interment, on which they might wreak a vain vengeance) until, we say, fellow citizens will cease to flaunt, in the face of day, the colours of party discord, under the connivance of administration, and to hold up, in annual procession, the mangled memory of their unfortunate and unhappy countrymen. We wish to judge of men not by the colour, but the *core*—not by their creed but by their conduct.

"On the People, says Sir William Jones, depend the welfare, the security, and the permanency of every legal government, in the people must reside all substantial power, and to the people must all those in whose ability and knowledge we sometimes wisely, often imprudently confide, be always accountable for the due exercise of that power with which they are, for a time, entrusted." Now in this word, the *Constitution*, says the same learned judge, are included the original and fundamental law of the kingdom from whence all power is derived, and by which it is circumscribed, all legislative and executive authority, all those municipal provisions which are generally called law, and lastly, the *customs, manners, and habits of the people.*

The habit of the British character had been gradually created by those constitutional laws which illustrate the grand eras of British history; and in the spirit that flowed from such laws, it was once said from the bench, that Magna Charta was a sort of fellow that would not brook any sovereign power. "The *Constitution*," said Henry Flood, "is a system of civil and political government, the fundamental privileges of which are certain immemorial usages, whose antiquity, if other proofs were wanting, speaks their superior wisdom, and certain memorable precedents, which the just and virtuous struggles of our ancestors, recognized by successive generations, point out how they ought to act under similar circumstances."

But though it be true, that in an eminent degree, the constitution of a people is the parent of their opinions, and that the manners are founded on the model of the laws, still there is a mutual and reciprocal action; for it is

the *manners*, *customs* and *habits* of the people, which preserve the vitality of the constitution, and resist its decay and putrefaction. When these manners and habits change, where is constitution to be found, but in the page of history? Whatever may be the fashion of the day, the cloud that floats across the firmament of truth, we declare we can neither understand, nor feel a loyalty which is independent, or extrinsic to the constitution. We are loyal to our king *in* the constitution, and circumscribed by it, but the loyalty which appears the boast of the day, attaches itself rather to the personal than the official character of the sovereign. There is a description of men, who have pushed their fortunes, during the present reign, and arrived at the most eminent stations, by this sort of *personal* loyalty, and by a dexterous adaptation of all their powers and faculties, great and little, not to the customs, manners, and habits of the people, but to the favourite prejudices and pre-conceived impressions of an individual. In most periods of our history there have been such wise, or wily men, whose great study seems to have been the personal character of the sovereign, by which *only* they squared their professed opinions and principles of action. "The *personal* character of queen Anne," says Bolingbroke, "made her change the ministry, having quarrelled with the Duchess of Marlborough, who treated her ill, and this gave the cause to peace." "My principal dependence," says the same St. John, speaking of another monarch advanced in life," was on his *personal* character. My hopes sunk as he declined, and died, when he expired."

The unremitting activity and influence of men thus fortuitously lifted into station, assisted, as they have been by the peculiar circumstances of the times, have, we think, operated a very considerable change in the *customs*, *manners* and *habits* of the people. National character has gotten a new turn. Loyalty, which ought to embrace with equal warmth the *whole* constitution, is converged upon the monarch. There is something rather abstract and general in the notion of constitution, not perfectly calculated for general and popular impression, and more for the reflecting few, than the common mass; and this has assisted the aforesaid party, powerful in their influence, although precarious in their tenure, in raising the people, always alive to sensible impressions, into ebullitions of loyalty, rather tending to a desuetude and dislike of the old British ideas of government. Every thing has been done, not merely to reconcile the people, a common-sensical, commercial people, to war, but to persuade them that their existence, and that of their constitution depends absolutely, and irreversibly on the fortunate event of the present contest.

Quousque tandem? After so many years of hostility we did indulge a hope that the fuel for war must have been nearly expended; and that Europe, not so much from the will of man, as from the necessity of things, *must* at length experience the return of periodical peace. But war is not an extinct volcano. Even when its more violent eruptions cease, and a horrid stillness prevails in place of the tumultuous war of conflicting elements, even then, vindictive passions, like subterraneous fires, are collecting materials for a fresh explosion. What remains for the lovers of their country and their kind? Little else than to console themselves with the reflection, that in the evils of the moral as of the natural world, there are advantages derived, which, in a great degree, counterbalance their occasional devastations. Thus, in the region bordering on a volcano, on viewing the uncommon strength of vegetation, the unrivalled beauty of scenery, the elysian softness of the air, and genial climate, we are naturally led to contemplate the beneficial effects of fire, mitigated by time, and to bless that providence under whose influence the same element becomes productive of terror and delight.

In a prospective view of this sort, we should wish to consider war in its remote as well as in its immediate consequences, *beneficial* as well as injurious to the interests of mankind. We would not indeed go so far as the author of a placid and pious poem, named the *Sabbath*, who soon after set about, and advertised an epic poem on the *Siege of Copenhagen*, the most disgraceful occurrence that ever stained the moral history of Great Britain, and in its event,

period; and nothing but a secret friendly understanding with the Emperor Alexander (Prussia is too much broken down to rely upon) would seem to justify the sending such a force at present to that part of the Continent. Rumours of peace betwixt the Belligerents are again current; and whether they arise from the ardent desires of the people harassed and worn out with the miseries and desolations of war, or whether they may have a more real foundation, we think that in the present crisis after a battle so dreadful and of such doubtful issue, Austria, were she so inclined, might conclude a peace upon terms which she will in vain look for hereafter. The time of success, or at least the approach to it, is the most favourable for making terms; and were our own government anxious to stop the progress of a war which can never to us produce either indemnity or security, they might now wrest from the embarrassments of Bonaparte such a peace as would fully satisfy the country. However, when we consider that no pacific proposal has ever yet emanated from us, we despair of such a result now; and imagine that we must still continue to urge on the murderous system till circumstances change, and we are again left *singly* to sustain the weight of the conflict.

The Austrian official account of the battle of Aspern, on the 21st and 22d of May, has been published, with a brief notice of the early part of the campaign. It goes into the most minute detail, giving a particular account of the operations of each of the five columns which composed the Archduke's army; according to it, their number was 75,000 effective troops, and they were ultimately and almost uniformly victorious in every attack and encounter during the two successive days of fighting. Their loss is estimated at eighty-seven superior officers, and four thousand one hundred and ninety-nine subalterns, and privates killed; eleven generals, six hundred and sixty three other officers, and fifteen thousand six hundred and fifty-one subalterns and privates wounded; and field-martial lieutenant Weber, eight officers and eight hundred and twenty-nine men taken prisoners. It is stated that of the French, seven thousand were buried on the field of battle; more than five thousand wounded lie in the Austrian hospitals, twenty-three hundred were taken prisoners, and twenty-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-three are in the hospitals of Vienna. Report makes the Archduke's army now 160,000 strong; and yet with this great force, he has remained six weeks on the banks of the Danube, nearly within sight of the bloody fields of Aspern and Esslingen, leaving the beaten and dispirited French in possession of the capital of Austria, to save which from Napoleon, at a previous period, had urged the Archduke to the greatest exertions, as he avows in the document before us: and not only do the French remain unmolested, but are pushing their conquests to the heart of Hungary, without any effectual resistance being opposed to them. We merely mention these things that our readers may not be too sanguine in their expectations, that Bonaparte will speedily be expelled from Germany: this may take place, but we fear that unless by negociation, it is not likely to happen. The 25th and 26th bulletins of the French army in Germany, are just received; they are dated Wolkersdorf in Moravia, the 8th and 9th of July. Nearly as we apprehended, they give an account of fresh disasters to Austria, and the renewed success of Bonaparte. The latter having completely eluded the vigilance of the Archduke, passed the Danube in the night of the 4th instant, almost two miles below Enzersdorf, which place sustained the left of the Austrian army, arranged his whole army in order of battle, at the extremity of their line, and by this manœuvre, in the language of the bulletins, "turned all the enemies' entrenched camps, rendering their works useless, and thus obliged the Austrians to abandon their positions, and come and offer him battle on the spot that was convenient to him." The result of these measures was the battle of Enzersdorf on the 5th, and that of Wagram on the 6th, in which the Austrians were driven from the field of battle with prodigious slaughter, and are now in full retreat towards Bohemia, cut off from their resources

the most prejudicial to its public character and relations, as an European power. We would not even assert, as some have confidently done, that a warlike life is the education fit for manhood. We would not mention that military discipline, which teaches habits of obedience and powerful subordination, along with the most generous competition, as a most sublime preceptor. We would not say that it moulds the manners of a multitude upon the model of one master mind, which guides and inspirits the whole mass, and as it were *Napoleonizes* a whole nation, that he becomes not merely the *vis motrix*, but the *vis formativa*, and delivering men from the anarchy and confusion of personal independence, regulates the mighty mass by the sublime principle of ORDER, and modifies its whole organization upon one heroic individual. Thus a single minute chrystal influences the form and whole congeries of the chrystalized mass however large it may be; and such, say the French writers, called *economists*, is the supreme advantage of an absolute monarch, and of an *unity* of legislation, that all principles of public economy, as well as all military operations, can, by such an individual, be best and most expeditiously carried into effect, unrestrained by the prejudices and local interests of popular assemblies. However prevalent such principles may be in France at this moment, where the civil constitution is wholly subordinate to the military, and every principle and person bend to the code of conscription, where every citizen is by necessity a soldier, and where the rule of Lycurgus is once more realized on a much more extensive scale, we trust that such doctrine will never long find footing in these kingdoms. We hate war because it is inconsistent with the civil rights of mankind, and must, by its nature, tend to DESPOTIC POWER.

In another point of view we might indeed say that war, not only occasions virtue, courage and perseverance, but it is, in its consequences, a powerful *reformer*, and of this war in particular, that the exigencies of the state will, ere long, work out the redemption of the Constitution. Not a war tax can be now imposed, but will eventually turn out the repeal of a grievance. Mr. Wardle only seconded an impulse previously communicated to the people, and the *indirect* effect of the war will be not merely to call forth the best resources of the people, but to accelerate the period of permanent and substantial reform. Every one must now be sensible that the time is critical; it must soon place the government of these countries, under the controul of Bonaparte, or of the people of Britain. The personal privations occasioned by the war will prove at length the public safety, and the pressure upon their purses will *squeeze* forth a public spirit from every rank and condition of the community. We shall be conducted to patriotism in the event by the mere instinct of self-preservation.

EUROPE.

The affairs of Europe have not undergone any considerable change during the present month; the two principal hostile powers having indulged a lengthened repose, probably suited to their circumstances, but certainly to the disappointment of the public expectation. During the period under review, the French have performed little in military enterprize, and the Austrians still less; for if we except the battle of Raab, in Hungary, gained by the former, and followed by the capture of the town of that name, the whole of this time seems to have been employed in preparing the means of future operations. What these may lead to, is still matter of conjecture; but with all the attention which we are able to bestow on the subject, we find no reason to alter our former opinion—that Austria must eventually be overpowered in the contest. This opinion is founded as well on the co operation of Russia and the assistance which Alexander is hastening to Bonaparte, as on the power and military character of France, and the abilities of her Emperor; and unless the powerful expedition now sending from this country can be a counterpoise in the north of Germany to the Russian army already advanced near the theatre of war, the Arch-duke Charles will be in a more perilous situation than he has been since the commencement of hostilities. We fear, indeed, that this expedition will be too late to afford that relief to our ally which it might have done at an earlier

lytes of any kind or to any religion, either by force or art. If in marriage contracts, where the parties are of different religions, it be settled in which the children are to be educated, those stipulations shall be exactly followed; but if there be no such agreement, in case of dispute, the male children shall be brought up in the religion of the father, and the female in that of the mother. Foundlings shall follow the religion of him or her who shall be charged with their education and support.

Had the Bavarians been disgusted with religious intolerance, and the Archduke Charles issued such a proclamation when he had lately the entire possession of that country, we should not have been surprised if many useful and determined partisans had flocked to his standard. But Bavaria has an enlightened prince, and though the measure we have just mentioned was not *law* before, yet he was always too wise not to avail himself even of *Protestant* talents, when conducive to the happiness and prosperity of his state and people.

ENGLAND.

Our labours in detailing our domestic situation will probably be considerably lessened during the interval of parliament not sitting. A parliamentary session brings together a conflict of the various parties, and gives opportunities for more fully discussing the state of public affairs. By such conflicts the people penetrate into some of the secrets both of administration and of opposition, and obtain a clearer view behind the curtain. We are, however, decidedly of opinion that the people must faithfully perform their parts, and that parliament will only be reformed, and an effectual stop put to the work of corruption, by popular opinion being so fully expressed, as to make an impression on the several branches of the legislature. If the people are supine, advantage will be taken of such a state of apathy, and the flame which has been fanned by some events in last session will die away, and leave only nearly extinguished embers to be revived again by some future spark.

If in the mean time, the people are aroused to speak their sentiments with decision and firmness, much good may be done, and a deep impression may be made on parliament, on its assembling, not by the violence of intemperate resolutions, but by the calm dignified expression of the public will. We shall therefore attend in an especial manner to the proceedings of meetings of counties and other public bodies.

According to the information in our last retrospect, a numerous meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the county of Essex assembled at Chelmsford on the 1st inst. notwithstanding the refusal of the sheriff to call a meeting, and notwithstanding an active canvas, and much influence being exerted to prevent a full attendance. We give their resolutions at page 77, in which they assert their privileges by showing the evil consequences that would result from sheriffs exercising a power to determine before-hand, and without giving any opportunity to the county to assemble, to manifest on which side the majority really lay; they voted thanks to Colonel Wardle, and those who supported him in the house of commons, and concluded with a resolution in favour of PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

It is curious to trace the effects of the attempts to stop the torrent of corruption. It has so long flowed in forbidden channels, that to restrain its influence appears like altering the entire course of the current. During the inquiry in the house of commons, it appeared that the selling of places was quite common in the management of the East India company's affairs. In consequence of further investigation, notwithstanding the resolutions of the court of directors against such practices, it was found that by evasions of one kind or another, an open traffic of places was publicly connived at. If directors did not actually receive money, they gave places to their relations, who sold them. In consequence of this detection, one of the former directors was not re-elected, and another voluntarily vacated his seat rather than undergo a scrutiny into his conduct, alleging his advanced age as a pretext for not encountering the fatigues of an inquiry. Several young men whose places had been purchased for them, have been recalled from India by the court of directors, whose zeal waxeth hot against inferior delinquents.—

in Hungary and Moravia, on which their chief, if not their only hopes were founded. The total loss on these two days is estimated at 60,000 men, killed, wounded, and taken prisoners.—The French compute their loss at 1500 killed and 3 or 4000 wounded. The Emperor Francis was a spectator of the engagement.

We do not at present presume to calculate the effects of this new calamity to the house of Austria, but we think if the expedition on the eve of sailing from our shores be destined to any place north of the Downs, it would be better *now* to disembark the troops without proceeding further.*

In Turkey, according to the information we possess, the Russians are completely successful. In Sweden they seem to have relaxed in their efforts; and as the Duke of Sudermania has been elected king, and accepted the office by the name of Charles XIII. and as the whole nation seem unanimous in their choice, and in their determination to defend themselves to the uttermost extremity, their Imperial neighbour will probably condescend to grant them terms which they may honourably accept.

Affairs in Spain are going rather adverse to the French interest; their troops are withdrawing from the western shores and concentrating near the capital. Sir Arthur Wellesley, after expelling the French from Portugal, is now with 30,000 British troops, said to be marching direct for Madrid, through the Spanish province of Estremadura, having formed a junction with the army under Cuesta, computed at 8000 cavalry, 24,000 infantry, and 10,000 pikemen, all well armed. This junction will constitute a formidable force; and were the 40,000 men now embarked for the grand expedition, to be landed at the foot of the Pyrennees and descend by the valley of the Ebro, they would be speedily in that part of Spain where the greatest exertions have hitherto been made, and where they would be most likely to meet with co-operation from the natives; and then our two armies in the peninsula amounting to 70,000 men, exclusive of the Spaniards, by vigorous and well concerted operations, might be fully sufficient to expel the French entirely from that country, and probably wipe off the disgrace of the unfortunate termination of Sir John Moore's campaign, by the capture of King Joseph and most of his military supporters.

* Since writing the above we have seen the 27th and 28th bulletins, the former of which contains the terms of an armistice concluded on the 12th instant, between Bonaparte and the Archduke Charles, after some severe fighting, in which the latter suffered considerably during his retreat. There is to be an armistice for one month, and fifteen days' notice given before the re-commencement of hostilities. The line of demarcation concedes to the French, Austria; the south part of Moravia, including the fortress of Brunn, Presburgh, and all Hungary, to the north and east of the Raab, Stiria, with the strong fortress of Gratz, Carniola, Istria and Fiume. The Tyrol and Voralberg are to be evacuated, and the fort of Sachsenbourg to be given up to the French troops. In Poland the two armies are to maintain their present positions. Thus has the campaign concluded upon the Continent, by laying Austria once more at the feet of the conqueror; and the wisdom of their measures may now be appreciated with *certainty*, who excited that unhappy country to a contest which has brought her many degrees lower than she was left by the battle of Austerlitz.

AMERICA.

The Americans say little about the determination of the British cabinet to annul the agreement so happily as they thought, concluded with Mr. Erskine. Astonishment seems to keep them silent; and if wise and conciliatory measures are not now followed, a more general feeling may be excited in that country, favourable to France, and *proportionably* injurious to England, than has at any time taken place since the declaration of their independence.

We cannot help remarking in this place, that the din of arms, and even the actual invasion of a country by hostile armies, does not prevent our enemies from agitating and carrying into effect extensive plans of internal policy. These kings and governments, *as our enemies*, must think differently from us, and they therefore suppose that a time of war may be very proper for ameliorating the condition of their subjects, and correcting the errors of a less enlightened period. The Popish king of the Roman Catholic country of Bavaria, has just issued an edict guaranteeing to all his subjects the most absolute liberty of conscience, and granting them full power, on attaining the age of twenty years, to choose and exercise whatever religion they please, without prejudice to any of their civil rights. The only prohibitory regulation is against making converts or prose-

him, to perplex with their legal subtleties. The gentlemen of the army were in like manner opposed to him—General Ferguson formed an honourable exception, and for this conduct he is now suffering in his professional line, by being left unemployed in the expedition just going out, notwithstanding the proffer of his services. Yet through all these obstacles truth prevailed, and forced unwilling conviction, both within and without the walls of the house of commons. We may recollect the short lived exultation on the second night of the examination, when, through a mistake of mentioning one brother instead of another in the case of the Malings, Mr. Wardle appeared to falter in his manner of proceeding. Now we see a burst of similar exultation, probably as short-lived, when, from the event of the late trial, another opportunity is given for misrepresenting motives. They who, in the present day, when virtue is unfashionable, and liable to be suspected, and with unblushing front despised, step forward to expose abuses, must not only arm themselves with courage to repel the open attacks of direct opponents, but with fortitude to bear the ungenerous returns of want of confidence in the people whose cause they are supporting. They must be content with the praise of the virtuous and discerning few, who look below the surface, with the justice which will be done to them by posterity enlightened, to appreciate their motives, and above all, with the approbation of their own minds, and a conscious sense of the sincerity and uprightness of their intentions. Thus supported they can brave the storm, and in the end will be able to triumph over the creatures of trick and existing circumstances, who know no other standard for acting, and indeed affect to despise any other than present apparent expediency, and sordid self-interest. We know it is unfashionable to speak of the Hampdens, the Russels, and the Sidneys of other days, yet these names with the patriots of the present, as well as preceding times, will descend, notwithstanding a temporary eclipse, as bright examples for the imitation of posterity.

"Fond impious man, think'st thou yon sanguine cloud,
"Rais'd by thy breath, has quench'd the orb of day?
"To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
"And warms the nations with redoubled ray."

SCOTLAND.

Having in a former number of the political retrospect, noticed the struggle of the patriotic inhabitants of Glasgow, with the editors of the news-papers of that city, and the intimation of an intention to set up another paper, on independent principles, we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of laying before our readers the following prospectus of the Glasgow Sentinel, and of expressing our cordial approbation of the principles avowed in it:

PROSPECTUS:

Considering that there are already five newspapers published in Glasgow, it is certainly due to the public, that good reasons should be assigned, for soliciting their attention and countenance to the introduction of a sixth.

Were the circulation of advertisements the chief business of a newspaper, those already published in Glasgow, are more than sufficient; but, if to give a full and impartial statement of foreign and domestic events, and to cherish in the minds of Britons, an ardent attachment to the principles of civil and religious freedom, is the paramount duty of a newspaper, it is presumed, that there is not only room for a publication of this kind, in the city of Glasgow, but that recent occurrences have shown the necessity of it.

The press is the great palladium and powerful safeguard of the rights of the people; because, by its silent and peaceful operations, it preserves alive in their minds, a just sense both of their duties and their privileges; while, at the same time, it controuls that lust of power, which is ever prone to extend its dangerous influence, first by undermining, and then by trampling down the fences and bulwarks of freedom. Great and systematic have been the attempts of the abettors of arbitrary power to silence this grand organ of public opinion. Force and influence have alternately been exerted, to render it subservient to the perversion of truth, by the deceptive arts of concealment and misrepresentation.

Hitherto these have failed of success, and for the good of mankind, it is to be hoped, that they never will succeed; for, were the liberty of the press extinguished, the civilized part of human society would soon revert to that torpid

The purchasers of places are severely punished, while the sellers remain in quiet possession of their gains. Some ineffectual measures were attempted by the proprietors of India stock, to mitigate this unequal punishment.

The public attention has been much aroused, and the enemies of reform have had a return of confidence from a verdict obtained against Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle esq. at the suit of an upholsterer for furnishing the house of Mrs. Clarke, and which verdict was obtained on the evidence of Mrs. Clarke and the brother of the plaintiff. We see no cause for triumph to this party. The validity of the charges against the Duke of York does not rest on the credibility of Mrs. Clarke, whose evidence in all its material parts was corroborated by the testimony of others, and by the no less authentic or unequivocal proofs incidentally produced by the blunders or concessions of his defenders. His case is not made better. It appears to us ungenerous to be too hasty in condemning the champion of the people, who is entitled to appear, until after clear proofs of the contrary, to stand in the perilous situation of having risked much of his character and fortune for the public good. He has declared the verdict has been obtained by perjury. It is right to suspend an unfavourable opinion, till he has an opportunity of legally clearing himself by proceedings for a new trial, which unpleasantly for him cannot be had until the commencement of the next term. We flatter ourselves that his honour will come forth from the rude manner of assaying it unblemished, and with fuller lustre. If we may be allowed to hazard a conjecture, we are inclined to attribute his being drawn into the present disagreeable situation by his zeal for the public service; and that to prevent this slippery lady from being bought off, and to keep her in temper, he was induced to allow her to get the furniture, until she could pay for it out of the remuneration he might reasonably expect she would procure by her claims being brought before the public. She has received large sums for hush-money, and security for annuities to herself and her daughters not on the honour of a prince, but on the estate of a nobleman for the suppression of certain letters and documents; and yet she refuses to pay a just debt she has contracted. To the same motive of removing her out of the way of being bribed before giving evidence, we may without any unreasonable stretch of candour attribute his taking her to see the Martello towers on the coast of Essex, in such company, and with such precautions as were necessary to secure his honour from reproach. Let us not ungratefully rob him of his reward of merit, without fully hearing him, and giving an opportunity to produce his exculpation. If he fail, it is then surely time enough to pronounce on him the verdict of guilty. Justice with her even scales would pronounce the sentence hesitatingly and reluctantly after the good he has done by bringing to light such disgraceful scenes, which even if errors should be detected in some of those who stood prominent as instrumental in making the discovery, will descend to posterity as monuments of the flagitiousness of the present times. We can give up Mrs. Clarke without impeaching the credibility of the charges; as she only afforded the clue to discover the truth. We trust much good will result from the exposition, though we expect many attempts will be made to lessen the importance of the discoveries, and to bespatter with the foulest dirt, those who stake their characters in the virtuous cause.

We think that throughout the entire business, Mr. Wardle has been hardly treated. He was, at the first opening of the charges, opposed by the ministerialists, and shunned by the oppositionists. On Sir Francis Burdett being prevented by a fit of the gout from attending the house of commons, he was left to sit alone, until Lord Folkstone, unsolicited, and without any previous concert, virtuously stepped forward to brave the popular odium, by taking his seat beside him. With the exception of Sir Samuel Romilly and one or two others, he had the entire phalanx of lawyers in the house against

and listless security, which, by debasing the tempers of men, sinks them insensibly into that state of degrading servitude, when it may be truly said, "that the mind of a people is slain."

To assert and maintain the freedom of the press in this populous city, and extensive district of country, is the principal object in view by the publication of the *Glasgow Sentinel*.

This it will attempt to accomplish, by a faithful and temperate account of the foreign and domestic events that are daily occuring in these eventful times, without arrogating to itself a right of dictating, and leading the public opinion; of assuming the unwarrantable presumption of saying, thus far shall the public know, and no farther; or, of misrepresenting even the little, which in those cases, is generally given.

Its columns will be accessible to every species of liberal and enlightened discussion; and although it is determined that it shall be open to all parties, but influenced by none, it will always be on its guard against every thing which may tend to licentiousness, or an abuse of the press.

To revive and invigorate in the minds of the present generation, that love of our country, which so eminently distinguished our forefathers, will always be a first consideration; and no opportunity or incident will be over-looked, which can afford the means or the prospect of promoting so important an effect.

At the present juncture, when it has been established by incontrovertible proof, that the vitals of the country are preyed upon by corruption and venality within, and when every day brings new threats of destruction and subjugation from without, there is an absolute necessity for awakening the people from their political stupor and lethargy, into that high-toned, but discriminating sentiment of patriotism, which enabled our ancestors to right our country's wrongs, and to repel her most inveterate foes.

As another means of promoting the best interests of the nation, the *Sentinel* will ever be ready to aid the cause of religion and virtue, in opposition to infidelity and vice.

The *Sentinel* will advance to its post divested of all hostility to those in power, and equally free of all partiality to those who are out of it; for it disclaims all connection with parties, or with party men. It will take its station under the standards of truth, justice, and British freedom, in opposition to corruption, venality, and political servitude.

In the discharge of its duty, it will study the utmost degree of candour, and, in awarding praise or censure, will be careful to observe the strictest impartiality. It will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in as far as it knows, without any other reward, or hope of reward, than that which an enlightened and independent British public may be pleased to grant, in return for the faithful discharge of its duty, and the necessary, but unavoidable charges, connected with the undertaking.

To parliamentary proceedings, and all those public political discussions which recent events have rendered so interesting, the attention of the *Sentinel* will be particularly directed. A faithful report of these proceedings and discussions will be given, and particular care will be taken to present a full and fair view, not of one side only, but of both sides of the question.

To the merchant, manufacturer, trader, and farmer, the earliest and most authentic information will be furnished of every article of intelligence relating to their respective avocations. All the usual lists will be given with accuracy, and every attention paid to render the *Sentinel* worthy of the patronage of the public.

This comprehends the outlines of the plan of the *Sentinel*; the political principles of which consist in a warm attachment to the *British constitution of government*, and a deep reverence for the principles recognized and established by our patriotic and enlightened ancestors, at the ever-memorable period of the revolution.

IRELAND.

With every disposition to pay the closest attention to the affairs of our native country, we find little to record during the present month. The Orange processions took place as usual in several places. At Bandon, on whose gates an inscription, dictated by the unhappy spirit of internal division which distracted this country, remained long as a memorandum of our civil wars, but which in a change of times and of circumstances should, with the spirit which dictated it, be consigned to merited reprobation, the bodies of yeomanry paraded on the 1st instant, dressed with the Orange insignia. The Earl of Bandon remonstrated with them, and as some of the public prints inform us, told them, what we are sorry to find has not been unequivocally demonstrated in other places, that go-

vernment was adverse to these processions. On a subsequent day, they again appeared on parade in similar array, and on further remonstrance from the Earl, report states that several corps of yeomanry amounting to about 575 out of 600 men, surrendered their arms &c. In our last number we pointed out the inconveniences of this system, as promoting disunion among neighbours, and weakening the strength of the empire. It appears objectionable in another point of view, such associations may injuriously controul the operations of government, when they dislike their proceedings. *Imperium in imperio*, or a body acting independently of government, has ever been considered an impropriety in politics. The late Earl of Clare, our well known chancellor, declared that all clubs as well those apparently in favour of government, as the ones directly hostile, were contrary to the principles of law. In a government, where the people are duly represented, and have their proper weight, in their own department, there is no need of Jacobin Clubs, United Societies, or Orange Associations. Give to the people their just share in the legislature, and nothing is to be feared from a muffled conspiracy, nor will there be occasion to look for support from associations of a part of the people containing in their formation the principles of division.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants, convened this day, at the Shire-Hall, at Chelmsford, by public advertisement:

Resolved unanimously, That the Right of the People to meet and discuss public measures, to consider the conduct of their representatives, and to prefer any address, petition, or remonstrance to the king, or either house of parliament, should be asserted and maintained by every friend to the liberties of England.

That the refusal of the sheriff to convene a Meeting of the County, in consequence of the interference of individuals, ought not to prevent the exercise of this right.

That the extraordinary application made to the sheriff, by persons who intruded on him their advice to withhold his assent to the requisition for assembling the county, is an unwarrantable attempt to prevent the people of Essex from expressing their opinion on subjects most important to their best interests.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, esq. for his having instituted the late inquiry in the house of commons, relative to the conduct of the commander in chief, and for the firmness which he displayed in discharge of his duty, in defiance of the threats of the ministers, and artifices of the crown lawyers.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Francis Burdett, bart. who seconded Mr. Wardle's motion for the inquiry; and to lord viscount Folkstone, and Samuel Whitbread, esq. for the able and zealous assistance which they afforded him during the investigation.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the one hundred and twenty-five members who supported Mr. Wardle's motion for an address to his Majesty.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the minority of the house of commons, who voted against the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to negative the charges preferred against the Commander in-chief.

That this meeting has witnessed with the deepest regret, various decisions in the house of commons upon corrupt practises which have been exposed, or in proof of which evidence has been offered to be adduced at the bar, but refused to be heard; and do declare their decided conviction, if measures are not adopted in the next session effectually to prevent their recurrence, the honour and character of Parliament will be extinct, and the safety of the country endangered.

That this meeting, whilst they are willing to make any sacrifice in defence of the safety and independence of the country, feel that it is highly necessary that a rigid system of economy should be established; and that the thanks of this meeting are due to those members of the house who have exerted themselves to obtain a retrenchment of the public expenditure, and such a diminution of the burthens of the people as are compatible with the means of national security.

That C. C. Western, esq. one of the members for the borough of Maldon (and the only member returned from the County of Essex who supported Colonel Wardle, or has declared in the house of commons his conviction of the necessity of a speedy and effectual Reform) by the uniform, upright, and independent conduct which

he has invariably observed upon public questions, has highly merited the thanks and approbation of this meeting.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Lord Cochrane, the Hon. Thomas Brand, Sir Francis Burdett, bart. Samuel Whitbread, W. A. Maddocks, Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Thomas Creevey, C. C. Western, and Wm. Smith, esqrs. and to every other member of either house of parliament, who has, in the course of the last session, declared himself friendly to a reform in the representation of the people.

That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Sir Henry St. J. Mildmay, bart. for his readiness in taking the chair, and for his impartial and judicious conduct this day.

(Signed) HENRY ST. JOHN MILDMAY,
July 1, 1809. Chairman.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....*Married*..Mr. James Harvey, of Clare, near Waringstown, to Miss Agnes Leve, of Lurgan. Mr. William Butterfield, master of the ship Lady Emily Barklie, to Miss Nicholl, of Belfast. Mr. John Alexander, of Cloghogue, to Elizabeth, daughter of Mr J. Bryson, of Ballynarey, near Moneymore. E. J. Gordon Nugent, esq. of the West Meath Regt. to Letitia Amelia, second daughter of J. Espin Batty, of Ballyhealy, co. West Meath, esq.

Died....Aged 13, Miss Eliza Jane Spears, daughter of Mr. P. Spears, of Carnmoney. In Belfast, Mr. J. M'Kee, Confectioner. At Randalstown, in the 86th year of her age, Mrs. Weir, relict of the late J. Weir, of Belfast, esq. At Carrickfergus, aged 55, Mr. Peter Savage. Near Comber, Mr. J. M'Dowell, aged 31. Mrs. White, wife of J. White, of Belfast. On the 2d inst. Henry O'Neill, of Ballinderry, in the 79th year of his age: he was a lineal decendant of the first families of that name in Ulster, being the fifth from the great Con. O'Neill, of Clanabuoy.

ARMAGH....*Died*...Mr. R. Watson, of Richill, aged 23.

DOWN....*Married*...Mr. A. Scott, Castlequarry, near Castlereagh, to Miss S. Stewart, of Dundonald. Trevor Corry, of Newry, esq. to Anne eldest daughter of the late Savage Hall, of Narrow-water, esq.

Died....Aged 106, J. Bourns, of Carbolly; he retained the use of all his faculties to the last.

L. DERRY.....*Died*....Aged 24, Mrs. Thompson, wife of Captain A. Thompson.

LEINSTER.

We feel great pleasure in recording the following instance of liberality, which has been lately made known to us:—The Rev. Mr. H. who has been for above 20 years past, Curate of Balrothery parish, having, some time ago, received a notice of dismissal, from a new Rector who intends to do his own duty, a great number of the Protestant inhabitants, unwilling to lose their beloved pastor, waited on him immediately, and offered to subscribe a larger salary for him than he had before, provided he remained and give them prayers in the town of Balbriggan; and it is more satisfactory that several Roman Catholics also (with a liberality highly honourable to themselves, as well as to the object of it) offered on the same conditions, to subscribe as largely as the former.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From June 20, till July 20.

THE weather for several weeks past, has been extremely hot and dry, which has greatly set up the oat crops on poor or exhausted grounds, and they are likely to be short and small headed.

The wheat in some districts is also complained of for being thin, particularly in the light grounds in the Barony of Lecale, where it is understood there is not a prospect of a heavy crop, in some other quarters there is a better appearance although in some places, the farmers are apprehensive of injury from the rust or red blast, which is observed in many of the wheat fields.

The crops of grain however upon the whole, look tolerably well, and it has been remarked by an extensive farmer from the west of Ireland, who has lately been in this country, that they look much better in the north, than in the more southern districts.

Much of the hay has been got up in excellent order, but, on the dry grounds the quantity is thought to be small, owing, as it is supposed, to the very dry weather we had in May.

The early planted Potatoes look extremely well—the later crops are likely to be hurt by the continuance of the present dry weather; the practice of planting potatoes late in the season, has become too general, and requires to be corrected; it is both injurious to the quality of the potatoe, and prevents the farmer from sowing the land with wheat in proper time.

Wheat has experienced a considerable reduction in price, but oats and oat-meal have not fallen in proportion.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It is difficult to write a commercial report in the present crisis. A few days may produce as great a change in the aspect of the commercial horizon, as has been just experienced in our political relations from the recent victory of the French over the Austrians. This victory has defeated, or at least rendered doubtful, some dreams of commercial avidity, as large quantities of callicoes and cotton-wool had been purchased, on the idea that the ports of the continent would speedily be opened to our manufactures. The state of our political and commercial relations with America (on the 27th inst.) still remains doubtful, and speculators eagerly avail themselves of the uncertainty, to gratify their inclination for commercial gambling.

Unwilling to hazard an opinion on the probable issue of the bungling negociation between these countries and America, or whether the latter will sacrifice her political independence as a nation, and the guarantee of neutral rights to commercial speculations, it may be more safe to take a view of the state of the importations from America during the last two months: for this purpose, let us select the port of Liverpool, which probably possesses a larger share of this trade than any other port. We presume Greenock comes next in importance. To shew the extent of the late importations from America, here follows a comparative statement of the importations into Liverpool during 20 days in this year, and during the whole of 1807, this year, previous to laying on the embargo,

From 10th to 30th June, 1809, inclusive.		From 1st. Jan. to 30th Dec. 1807, inclusive	
Cotton	35,400 bags	Cotton	142,400 bags
Wheat	66,000 bushels	Wheat	624,060 bushels
Flour	59,000 barrels	Flour	128,590 barrels
Turpentine . . .	9,900 ,,	Turpentine . . .	18,775 ,,
Tar	9,540 ,,	Tar	12,720 ,,
Ashes	7,260 ,,	Ashes	12,707 ,,
Rice	5,575 tierces & casks	Rice	8,970 tierces & casks
Tobacco	2,065 hhds.	Tobacco	5,830 hhds.
Besides 12 cargoes of timber and 900 M. staves.			

We avail ourselves of a commercial circular letter from intelligent Correspondents at Liverpool, giving an account of the state of the market for American produce, to subjoin the following extracts from it:

"The long suspension of intercourse with America depriving us of the requisite supplies of cotton, and at the same time materially diminishing the extent of the demand for our manufactures, had imposed serious hardships upon those engaged in that trade. These evils being now apparently in a fair way to be removed, our cotton works are once more busily employed, and both spinners and manufacturers are prosecuting their respective departments with spirit and activity, under the expectation that the prospects for the manufactured article will gradually improve. There has, in consequence, been a brisk demand for the raw material, chiefly by the regular trade. In the course of three weeks, upwards of 22,000 bags have been sold, of which there may be about 12,400 bags of American cottons. The total quantity imported from all parts into this place, since the 10th ult. has been about 52,000 bags, of which 35,400 bags are from the United States. The common cottons are principally the objects of attention, although the fine descriptions are also in fair demand. With regard to the future prospects, there are various opinions, but it may be expected that the demand will be regular and extensive, while the prices continue moderate. We apprehend, however, that the heavy imports, which are constantly coming from the Brazils, and the anxiety with which they are, occasionally, pressed upon the market, may interfere with the sale, and consequently depreciate the value of certain kinds of Sea Islands. It may also be worthy of remark, that many of our manufacturers, who have a regular trade with the United States, considering that our relations are still unsettled, and believing that the market is largely stocked with cotton goods, have concluded to ship very cautiously, until affairs are in a state more calculated to inspire confidence.

"The demand for tar has lately been considerable, and, as the prices are now pretty moderate, both speculators and dealers have bought largely; it may be quoted at 26s. a 28s. per barrel. Should our regular supplies from Sweden suffer any interruption, while the ports of Russia continue shut against us, it can scarcely be expected that the quantity which is produced in America will be equal to our usual consumption. Calculating on these circumstances, the prospects are, upon the whole, very favourable.—The stocks of turpentine being almost entirely exhausted, the distillers are under the necessity of coming into the market very freely, and, from the competition which was naturally excited, the prices have been materially advanced; the good soft qualities are now worth 19s. a 20s. per cwt. For some time past, large supplies of French spirits of Turpentine have been imported through the medium of Holland, into the London market; the quantity, we believe, may be equal to the produce of about 18,000 barrels; this will, doubtless, militate against the demand which we might otherwise have experienced from that quarter. About the beginning of the year, spirits of turpentine sold as high as 28*l.* a 30*l.* Prices so extravagant and tempting could scarcely fail to procure a supply, in opposition to all restrictive measures. As this inducement is now removed, by the article having fallen to 5*l.* a 5*l.* 5*s.* per cwt. the imports, it may be expected, will naturally decrease.

"Timber having been, for a long time, very much wanted, several cargoes, recently arrived, have been bought as soon as they were landed, and the demand continues regular and extensive. We believe that the orders which have been received from the country dealers only, would be sufficient to take off all the common pine which has yet been imported, provided contracts could be made at 3s. per foot, which is the extent of the present limits. The market is, however, considerably higher, and Massachusets pine may be quoted at 3s. 2d. a 3s. 4d. and Pitch pine at 4s. a 4s. 3d. —Oak Logs 4s. a 4s. 2d.—Hardwood 3s. 4d. a 3s. 9d. per foot.

"The decree which prohibited the importation of Colonial goods from Holland into France being rescinded, has, in conjunction with the present state of affairs in Germany, given rise to various surmises, and encouraged a few of our merchants and manufacturers to hope that, by the removal of some of the existing difficulties, a communication with the continent, through the medium of Heligoland, would be rendered less hazardous; however distant and slender this prospect may be, it has operated rather in favour of cotton and tobacco. But as this conjecture rests almost entirely on presumptive grounds, we may reasonably suppose that the exporters will wish to see their way more clearly, before they embark in speculations which may finally close in disappointment and loss—a termination which, in similar cases, has been but too frequently experienced.

"The demand for flour is regular and extensive; some parcels from Baltimore have been sold so low as 43s. 6d. New York and Philadelphia obtain, generally, 45s. a 47s. per barrel. Wheat is extremely dull; the prices of American may be nominally 12s. 6d. a 13s. per 70lb. So long as flour can be bought comparatively lower, wheat will of course be neglected. Both these articles, for two months past, have been regularly on the decline. When the deficiency in the wheat crop of 1808 is considered, and at the same time our total seclusion from all foreign supplies, the depression is surprizing, in as much as it was unexpected. The alarm, which the prospect of immense arrivals from America has excited, is, perhaps, the only explanation which can be given of the fact. But since it has acquired more importance in the public estimation than the case seems to justify, we shall endeavour to place the matter in a clearer light: the quantity of wheat imported into this place since the 10th inst. is about 66,000 bushels, besides 59,000 barrels of flour, being in the aggregate equal to about 302,000 bushels of wheat. Although to some, who take Liverpool only into consideration, these imports may appear heavy, yet, if a more comprehensive view is taken of the subject, we shall find that, compared with the consumption of the kingdom, they lose much of that consequence with which they have been invested. To make this still more evident, let us suppose that our population is about 9,000,000, and estimating the average consumption of each individual at eight bushels annually, the total quantity imported here would scarcely furnish two days subsistence. The effects, then, it is obvious, rest almost entirely on idea, and not on any real or relative magnitude; but, however evident this may be, it is insufficient to obviate the effects of that opinion, which has taken possession of the public, of the extent or continuance of which we can form no calculation. As so much now depends on the state of the weather, our future prices will be governed more by this than by any other circumstance.

"Ashes have been very much depressed. Although the market is rather improving, the buyers will scarcely venture to purchase extensively, until they can ascertain with more accuracy, the supplies which are expected from Canada, and the quantity which may yet be imported from the United States."

Large purchases of ashes and cotton wool have been lately made in the market of Belfast, by merchants from Dublin. The capital of our island possesses very little foreign trade, and for the supplies which they require either for the purposes of immediate demand, or of speculation, the merchants of Dublin are mostly indebted to the out ports.

Linseed oil has lately been imported into Belfast from America. This circumstance affords a proof of the effects of the embargo operating in favour of their manufactures.

On a trial lately in London, it was proved that the rise on Spanish wool was merely artificial, for at the time the rise took place, there was abundance of the article, and but a small demand at the market. The speculators in this article, after occasioning much mischief, have themselves met with a heavy loss—a fit termination to the prevailing mania for speculation! If undue means are not continued, the price of superfine woolen cloths may be expected to fall to their former level.

In some places the crop of flax-seed looks well, wherever they had good seed—It is said that this crop in England this year is remarkably favourable. In the county of Derry the crops were very bad. The early sowing had generally missed, and the produce of the seed with which many had re-sowed their ground, was very short. Such was the appearance of the crop in that county about the first week of the present month, as reported by our botanical colleague. The flax crop is good in the county of Monaghan, and in the vicinity of Newry, being improved by the favourable season; but it is bad in the neighbourhood of Drogheda. Flax continues to decline. The holders of flax in Newry demand from 14s. 6d. to 16s. per stone of 16lbs. for the quantities they bought on speculation last year. The London and Liverpool markets are low. Best Dutch Blea, which brings the highest price of any other flax in the London market, is quoted at 105s. per cwt. there, looking down. —The speculation last year in flax, occasioned great loss to the country, by unnecessarily enhancing the price of that article, and locking up a large quantity of it in the warehouses of the merchants, so as to form an unproductive stock.—The speculations in Linen last autumn had a similar effect. The country suffered much from trade being thus taken out of its accustomed and proper channels; and the speculators are not likely to enrich themselves, as neither flax or linen are selling at advanced prices.

The linen market in Dublin this month was dull. The buyers mostly held off, and a few of the sellers sold at reduced prices. They who had orders to buy for the American market declined to purchase at the present rates. Not many sales, especially of fine linen, have been lately effected in the market of London, except in a few instances, in which the holders consented to make reductions off invoice. The wholesale drapers in that market still continue to hold off, in the expectation of forcing the sellers into their terms.

England feels the want of a trade to the continent. To try to encourage it, an order in council has lately been issued, to permit all flags except those of France to enter the port of Heligoland without licence. They are thus trying to convert this rock into a depot for English manufactures, from which to supply the continent.

Exchange in Belfast on London, during this month, has averaged for notes at $9\frac{1}{4}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and for gold about eight per cent. The discount on notes has been from 1 to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.—The demand for guineas, in the commercial transactions of Belfast daily lessens; and as the medium of payment for linens, their use is also decreasing—they being now little used, except in the market of Belfast, and in some of the markets for the finer $\frac{7}{8}$ wide linens; at Ballymena, and in part at Downpatrick; and for one species of linen only in Lisburn, the coarse linens bought for exportation in a brown state.

To answer the temporary purpose of sending guineas to the continent, to be relieved from the unfavourable state of exchange, which is from 15 to 20 per cent against London, a proof of the small export trade to the continent, and to procure guineas to send out with the expedition, it is said that gold now bears, in some places in England, a premium of 2s. per guinea—but when the temporary purpose is effected, as no part of the internal trade of England creates an exclusive demand for payments in specie, it is presumed that this premium will again cease.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from June 20, till July 20.

Barometer....highest	30	30	Thermometer....highest	75	0
mean	30	0	mean	68	0
lowest	29	0	lowest	52	0

Typhus, - - - - - - - 4 Common contagious fever.
Synocha, - - - - - - 1 Inflammatory fever.

Cynanche trachalis,	1	Croup.
Hepatitis,	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Rheumatismus,	2	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodynia,	1	Chronic do.
Variola discreta,	6	Distinct small pox.
——— *confluens,*	4	Confluent do.
Variola,	1	Chicken pox.
Rubeola,	10	Measles.
Scarlatina,	1	Scarlet fever.
Epistaxis,	1	Bleeding from the nose.
Phthysis,	1	Consumption.
Catarrhus,	1	Common cold.
Epilepsia Cerebralis,	1	Convulsions.
Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Pertussis,	1	Hooping cough.
Hysteria,	2	Hysterics.
Ascites,	1	Dropsy.
Scrophula,	6	Evil.
Ptyalismus,	1	An immoderate flow of saliva or spittle.
Psora,	3	Itch.
Herpes,	4	Ringworm or tetter.
Syphilis, / *Gonorrhœa,*	10	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	16	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

Fever, contrary to the hopes and expectations expressed in our last, still continues to make a prominent figure in our list, but of so mild a character in general as not to produce any great alarm; measles and small pox are to be seen in great numbers in every street; the hooping cough, so long a stranger to us, has again made its appearance, and as it is a disease that is generally mild in proportion as the subject whom it attacks is advanced in years, it will be prudent in parents to prevent their children, if very young, from being exposed to its influence, for that it is highly contagious, is an opinion very universally received among gentlemen of the medical profession. The case of scarlet fever recorded in this catalogue, was not under the Reporter's care, but he had an opportunity of seeing it, and it terminated in the most favourable manner, nor has the contagion as yet spread any farther. Vaccination goes on with great rapidity, and from a regulation adopted at the dispensary, of devoting a portion of time every Tuesday and Saturday, for the inoculation of all persons who may attend, the poor can have no excuse if they should neglect to avail themselves of it. The Reporter has been favoured by a medical friend, with a sight of a disease very rare in this country, viz. "Lepra Ichthyosis" of Sauvage; the subject is a girl 12 years old, the disease has been of seven years duration: what may be the effect of the plan proposed for the removal of this most loathsome disease, it is difficult to conjecture, but the result shall be published in a future report.

NATURALIST'S REPORT,

From June 20, till July 20.

Wound o'er the hedge-row's oaken boughs
The woodbine tassels float in air,
And blushing, the uncultured rose,
Hangs high her beauteous blossoms there;
Her fillets there the purple nightshade weaves,
And pale bryonia winds her broad and scallop'd leaves.

The pleasure of Spring is often so alloyed with the chill north east, and nipping frosts, that until summer is confirmed it is scarcely possible to calculate how much we should rejoice on beholding the fairest expansion of the flowers, and it has often been said that the painting of the poet when he sung the beauties of spring was ill suited to our unsteady climate; but summer with more manly pace advancing, clears away our doubts, gives certainty to our hopes and fears, and the vegetable creation, recovered from the rigours of winter, displays one universal robe of ever delightful green, and animals enjoy a pleasure unknown where the sun ripens the pine apple, and the palm, prince of the vegetable world, waves his exalted head.

20, Corn Spurry (Spergula arvensis) flowering.

23, Blue Argus Butterfly (Papilio Argus) very common. Marsh Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris) flowering.

25, Mountain Thistle (Carduus pratensis) Broad-leaved Marsh Orchis (Orchis latifolia) and two leaved Butterfly Orchis (Orchis bifolia) White Ox-eye Daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum) and common Honeysuckle (Lonicera Periclymenum) flowering.

26, Wild Roses (Rosa canina, Ros. tomentosa, R. scabriuscula, & R. spinosissima) in full flower.
27, Flax (Linum usitatissimum) and beautiful St. John's wort (Hypericum pulchrum) flowering.
28, Climbing field Rose (Rosa arvensis) and Corn Marygold (Chrysanthemum segetum) flowering.
July 1, Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus) flowering.
Oats shooting, Wheat and some Potatoes flowering.
2, Common Orange lily (Lilium bulbiferum, variety) flowering.
6, Tawney day Lily (Hemerocallis fulva) flowering.
7, Upright Hedge Parsley (Caucalis anthriscus) flowering.
Rail (Gallinula crex) considerable numbers yet calling in the evenings.
8, Broad leaved Campanula (Campanula latifolia) flowering.
9, Gum Cistus (Cistus ladaniferus) flowering.
11, Yellow Ladies Bedstraw (Gallium verum) flowering.
12, Black, White, and Red Currants becoming ripe.
13, Evergreen Climbing Rose (Rosa sempervirens) and Peruvian Squill (Scilla peruviana) flowering.
14, Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) and Sneezewort (A. ptarmica) flowering.
15, Common Heath (Erica vulgaris) flowering.
16, White Lily (Lilium album) flowering.
19, Sea Starwort (Aster Tripolium) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From June 20, till July 20.

Most people must have heard old persons lament how much the seasons have changed since they were young. Instead of the fine, dry, and warm weather, which they experienced in their youth, our summers are remarkable at present for their cold and moisture, and our winters for dark and disagreeable cold weather, without fine and invigorating frost. Now from an examination of meteorological registers, we have reason to suppose these remarks unfounded in actual observation, and from our observations of the present season, we think, if their blood is not become too much cooled to be again heated, they may experience the same pleasure which the seasons formerly conveyed.

June 20, 26 - - - - - - Fine days,
27, - - - - - - - - Wet morning and evening,
28, 29, - - - - - - - Dark dry day,
30, - - - - - - - - Dark day, wet evening,
July 1, - - - - - - - - Dark day,
2, - - - - - - - - Fine, but cold,
3, - - - - - - - - A trifling shower,
4, - - - - - - - - Showery,
5, 11, - - - - - - - Fine,
12, - - - - - - - - Some showers,
13, 14, - - - - - - - Fine,
15, - - - - - - - - Dark, dry, windy day,
16, - - - - - - - - Fine,
17, - - - - - - - - Light showers,
18, 20, - - - - - - Fine.

During this period the Barometer has stood about 30 with little variation.

The lowest point at which the Thermometer was observed, was on the morning of the 3d of July, when it stood at 52, at 8 A. M. and the highest was on the 23d. of June when it stood at 2 P. M. as high as 76.

The wind has been in the Northern points 17, times, Western 3, South 2, East 2, and the intermediate points have been almost regularly N. E.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR AUGUST 1809.

First, The Moon rises at 17 min. past 10 P. M. just before Jupiter, and to the east of her are the three first stars of the Ram. During the night her passage by that planet will excite attention from observers. She sets the next morning at 23 min. past 12.

Fifth, On this evening she will be seen directing her course towards the fourth star of the Bull, which she does not pass till after Sun-rise. At 40 min. past 10 in the morning, she passes the 5th Star in the Bull, or the Bull's eye, the brightest star near Aldebaran, in the direction from that star to the Pleiades.

Eleventh, On this day at 10 min. past 7, morning, is new Moon, but without producing an eclipse, as she is, at this time, about four degrees south of the ecliptic.

Fifteenth, She has approached the first star of the Virgin, Mars being at a considerable distance from her. But as she sets about 9 P. M. we shall have only a short time to make observations on her position with respect to the principal fixed stars near her.

Twentieth, She passes our meridian at 14 min. past 8, having below her to the east of the meridian, the 12th star of the Archer, and consequently, further to the east, the small stars in his head; and she is directing her course to the two first stars of the Goat. Above her at a considerable height, are the small stars in the Bull of Poniatowski, to the east of the meridian, and still higher to the west, the first stars of the Serpent-bearer and Hercules.

Twenty-fifth, On this day is full moon, at 26 min. past 7 in the morning, but without an eclipse, as she is upwards of four degrees north of the ecliptic. She rises at 15 min. past 7, under the 4 small stars in the triangle of the Water-pot,—at 9, she is 55° 14′ from the first of the Ram.

Thirtieth, She rises at 19 min. past 9 P. M. and may be observed as she mounts the heavens, near the middle of the triangle, formed by the 3 first stars of the Ram, the Pleiades, and Menkar; Jupiter being to the west, and Aldebaran to the east of this groupe, will be a pleasing object during the night.

Mercury is in his superior conjunction on the 25th in the morning, and of course is a morning star till that time, being visible in the earlier part of the month, but soon escaping the view of any but the keen observer. On the first, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and the Moon will, an hour before Sun-rise, decorate the eastern hemisphere.

Venus is a morning star, and at her greatest elongation on the 2d. On the first we perceive her near the sixth of the Bull, or tip of his southern horn, and she is directing her course to the 13th of the Twins, which she passes on the 12th. The Moon passes her on the 7th in the morning.

Mars is an evening star, being on the meridian on the 1st, at 41 minutes past 5 in the afternoon, and on the 19th at 19 minutes past 5. On this day he is under the 10th and 11th of the Virgin, being about midway between the first of the Virgin and the first of the Balance. During the latter part of the month, the two first stars of the Balance with Saturn, Mars, and the two first stars of the Scorpion, form a distinguished groupe in the South West. The Moon passes him on the 17th.

Jupiter rises on the 1st, between 10 and 11, and before the end of the month between 8 and 9, he will therefore, for the most part, be visible during the whole night. On the first, he is nearly 60° west of Venus, which distance is daily increasing. The Moon passes him on the night of the first.

Saturn is on the meridian on the first at 19 min. past 7, and on the 19th at 12 min. past 6 P. M. of course we have favourable opportunities of seeing him in the south-west, in the evening. The Moon passes him on the 18th.

Herschell is on the meridian on the 1st at 52 min. past 5, and on the 21st at 38 min. past 4, P. M. his motion is direct through somewhat more than 50′. The Moon passes him on the 17th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Immersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Immersions.*				3d SATELLITE.					* *First Satellite Continued.*			
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	15	0	9	1	16	57	45	3	15	57	46	Im.				
3	9	28	32	5	6	15	59	3	18	24	35	E.				
5	3	56	59	8	19	35	19	10	19	58	15	Im.				
6	22	25	23	12	8	53	33	10	22	24	0	E.				
8	16	53	50	15	22	12	51	17	23	59	15	Im.				
10	11	22	14	19	11	31	4	18	2	24	4	E.	21	2	12	53
12	5	50	41	23	0	50	21	25	4	0	18	Im.	22	20	41	22
14	0	19	6	26	14	8	36	25	6	24	3	E.	24	15	9	49
15	18	47	34	30	3	27	49						26	9	38	18
17	13	15	59										28	4	6	45
19	7	44	28										29	22	35	15
													31	17	3	42

Look to the right hand.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Adventures of Walter Tempest are inadmissible in our pages. Several other pieces are received and are under consideration.